DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 391 704 SO 025 720

AUTHOR Scott, John W., Ed.; And Others
TITLE The American Revolution through Its Songs and Ballads.
PUB DATE 94
NOTE 68p.; For volume 10 and 14 see ED 327 463 and ED 378 101 respectively.
AVAILABLE FROM Folksong in the Classroom, P.O. Box 925, Sturbridge, MA 01566 ($10).
PUB TYPE Guides - Classroom Use - Teaching Guides (For Teacher) (052)
JOURNAL CIT Folksong in the Classroom; v15 n1-3 1994-95

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC03 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Cultural Education; Cultural Traits; Elementary Secondary Education; History Instruction; *Interdisciplinary Approach; *Legends; *Music; Music Education; Oral History; Oral Tradition; *Revolutionary War (United States); Social Studies; Story Telling

ABSTRACT

"Folksong in the Classroom" is designed to be used by teachers of history, literature, music, and the humanities to encourage the study of history through folk song. This volume focuses on the history of the American Revolution, using song and script to better understand the American Revolutionary War. A question and answer segment encourages discussion. Pictures and maps accompany the text. Songs in this issue include: (1) "The Liberty Song"; (2) "Revolutionary Tea"; (3) "The Irishman's Epistle"; (4) "To the Commons"; (5) "Fish and Tea"; (6) "British Grenadiers"; (7) "Yankee Doodle"; (8) "The Deserter"; (9) "Sir Peter Parker"; (10) "The Dying Redcoat"; (11) "Nathan Hale"; (12) "The Battle of Trenton"; (13) "Riflemen of Bennington"; (14) "The Fate of John Burgoyne"; (15) "The Battle of the Kegs"; (16) "Come Out Ye Continentalers"; (17) "Yankee Doodle's Expedition to Rhode Island"; (18) "How Stands the Glass Around"; (19) "Johnny Has Gone For a Soldier"; (20) "Paul Jones' Victory"; (21) "The Ballad of Major Andre"; and (22) "Lord Cornwallis' Surrender." (EH)

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Folksong in the Classroom

The American Revolution Through Its Songs and Ballads

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FOLKSONG IN THE CLASSROOM

A NETWORK OF TEACHERS OF HISTORY, LITERATURE, MUSIC AND THE HUMANITIES - A NEWSLETTER

Volume XV #1, #2 and #3
Fall 1994 to Spring 1995

Individual $10.00
Institution 15.00
Foreign 20.00

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THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION THROUGH ITS SONGS AND BALLADS

A script for the classroom or stage

The Folk Paul Revere
(courtesy of the American Antiquarian Society)

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THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION THROUGH ITS SONGS AND BALLADS

by John Anthony Scott

Introduction

During the revolutionary era American balladry came of age in an outburst of creative song writing. The story of those times may be told vividly through these songs. They provide us with insight into popular moods and feelings, and into the nature of the historic struggle as experienced by those who were engaged in it.

During the American Revolution songs served many purposes. As propaganda pieces they mocked antagonists, made fun of their failures and scorned their victories. As inspirational pieces, they urged people to sacrifice for their cause. As living newspapers in an age when there was a scarcity of printed materials, they gave information about important events. The songs composed by American patriots, in particular, addressed the purpose of life in a revolutionary age and educated people concerning the nature of revolutionary morality.

British and Americans who fought against each other in the Revolutionary War shared a common literary heritage and set their lyrics to melodies drawn from the same musical treasury. But the patriotic songs of the revolutionary era carry a message that is uniquely their own. They enable Americans today to share a love of country and a hatred of oppression with people who lived 200 years ago. The American Revolution proclaimed the right of human beings everywhere to live freely and to shape their own destinies. Theirs was the 'trumpet of a prophecy' that continues to illuminate and inspire the dreams of millions of people in the world today. The American Revolution was then, and remains today, an event of world significance.

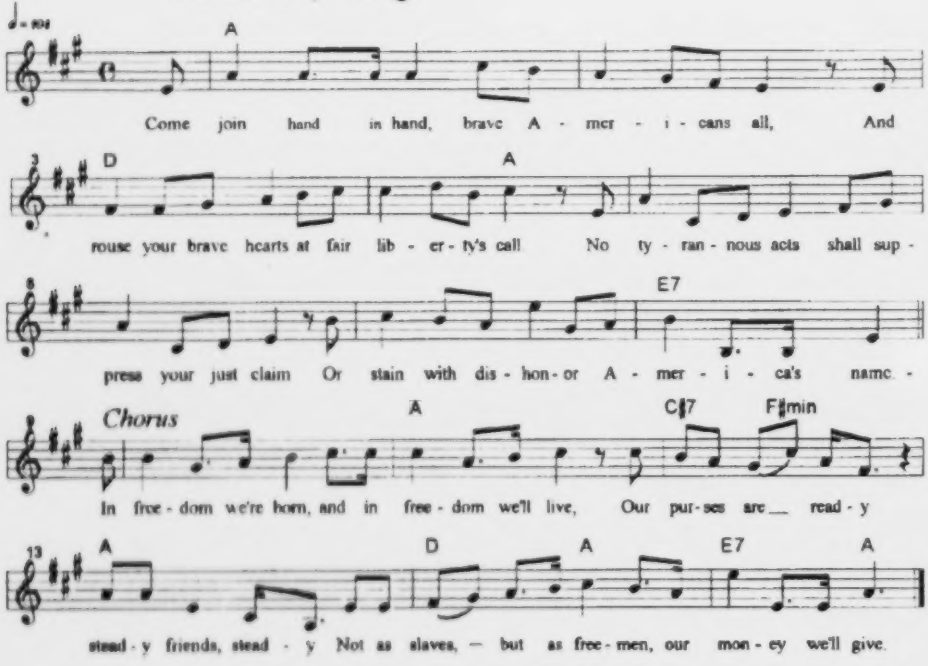
This script, as a summary of the Revolution, is by no means complete. It omits mention of a number of topics that are both important and fascinating. Here there is intentionally a 'do it yourself' element built into the narrative. Students may be invited to research omitted anecdotes, episodes, or biographies, write them up, and incorporate them into a revised script of their own. Essential information about archaic words used in a given song is provided at the end of each lyric. More detailed information and a bibliography is supplied under *Song Notes* beginning on page 59. *Questions for discussion,* page 63, provides analysis and suggestions for classroom discussion.

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION THROUGH ITS SONGS AND BALLADS

Stage directions: Divide the participants into two groups of approximately equal size, the British Loyalists and the American Patriots, and give each group one side of the stage or room. Choose parts. Loyalists present only from stage right. Patriots from stage left. Narrators and singers are drawn from either group and present from center stage.

Phase 1: The Struggle in New England: From the Boston Tea Party, November 1773, to the British evacuation of Boston, March 1776

Narrator 1 - Revolution in America, seventeen hundred and seventy five!

The Liberty Song

A
Come join hand in hand, brave A - mer - i - cans all, And
D
A
rouse your brave hearts at fair lib - er - ty's call No ty - ran - nous acts shall sup -
E7
press your just claim Or stain with dis - hon - or A - mer - i - ca's name -
Chorus
A
C♯7
F♯min
In free - dom we're born, and in free - dom we'll live, Our pur - ses are read - y
A
D
A
E7
A
stead - y friends, stead - y Not as slaves, but as free - men, our mon - ey we'll give.

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Come join hand in hand brave Americans all,
And rouse your brave hearts at fair liberty's call.
No tyrannous acts shall suppress your just claim
Or stain with dishonor America's name.

Chorus In freedom we're born, and in freedom we'll live.
Our purses are ready, steady friends steady,
Not as slaves but as freemen our money we'll give.

Loyalist 2 - Revolution? Why? This raw militia? These farmers, tinkers, shoemakers against the mighty British Empire? Why?

Patriot 3 - They will face death itself in the defense of their land and rights. The issue is clear: who will rule and benefit from this great and fertile continent: the old Empire or the new nation?

The Liberty song, continued.

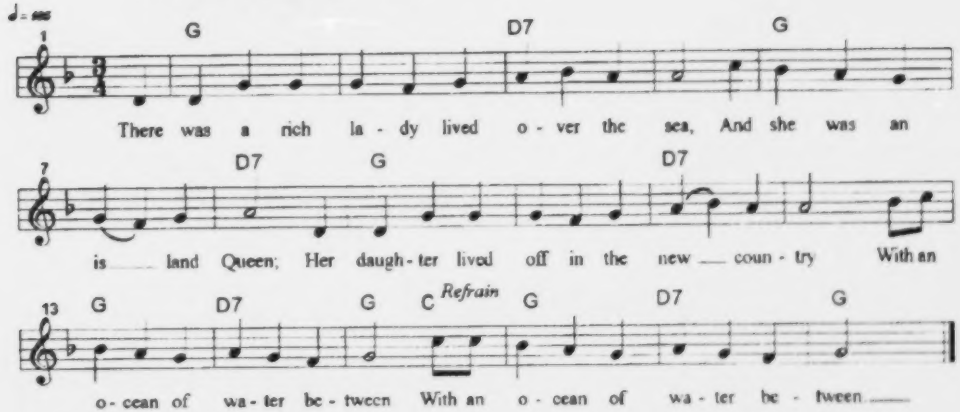
How sweet are the labors that freemen endure
That they may enjoy all the profits secure.
No more such sweet labors Americans know
If Britons shall reap what Americans sow.

Chorus

Loyalist 4 - What is all this talk about freedom? Hasn't Parliament withdrawn all taxes on the colonists, with the exception of a token tax on tea?

Patriot 5 - Token! This tea tax is proof that Parliament is determined to govern Americans without their consent. Americans will not surrender their British rights!

Revolutionary Tea


G D7 G
There was a rich la - dy lived o - ver the sea, And she was an
D7 G D7
is land Queen; Her daugh - ter lived off in the new coun - try With an
G D7 G C Refrain G D7 G
o - cean of wa - ter be - tween With an o - cean of wa - ter be - tween

There was a rich lady lived over the sea,
And she was an island Queen;
Her daughter lived off in the new country,
With an ocean of water between.

Refrain: (repeats the last line of each verse)

The old lady's pockets were filled with gold,
But never contented was she;
So she ordered her daughter to pay her a tax,
Of thruppence a pound on the tea.

Refrain

"O Mother, dear Mother," the daughter replied,
"I'll not do the thing that you ask;
I'm willing to pay a fair price on the tea,
But never the thruppenny tax."

Refrain:

"You shall," cried the mother, and reddened with rage,
"For you're my own daughter, you see;
And it's only proper that daughter should pay,
Her mother a tax on the tea."

Refrain:

She ordered her servant to be called up,
To wrap up a package of tea,
And eager for thruppence a pound she put in,
Enough for a large family.

Refrain:

She ordered her servant to bring home the tax,
Declaring her child must obey;
Or old as she was and woman most grown,
She'd half whip her life away.

Refrain:

The tea was conveyed to her daughter's own doo
All down by the ocean side;
But the bouncing girl poured out every pound,
On the dark and boiling tide.

Refrain:

And then she called out to the island Queen,
"O mother, dear mother," called she;
Your tea you may have when 'tis steeped enough,
But never a tax from me."

Refrain

Vocabulary: thruppence: three pennies
steeped: strong

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Loyalist 6 - The Boston Tea Party took place on December 3, 1773. Britain would not tolerate this defiance; she struck back. In the spring of 1774 Parliament passed Acts which closed the Port of Boston, banned fishing in the cod fisheries, and ordered Boston to be blockaded until the Bostonians paid for the tea which they had dumped in Boston harbor. These parliamentary decrees sent a stark message: submit to the Parliament or starve.

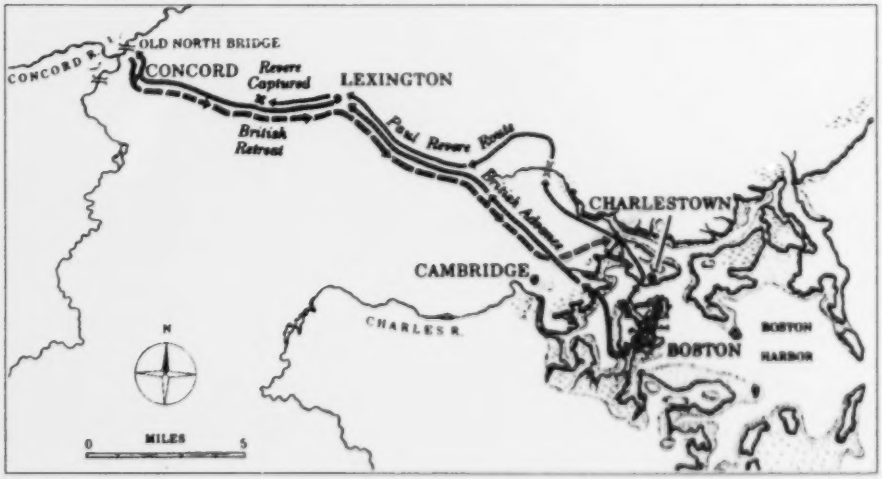
Loyalist 7 - General Thomas Gage is Governor of Boston and Commander-in-Chief of His Majesty's Forces in North America. On April 18, 1775, the General sends out troops under the cover of darkness to destroy the rebel stores at Concord and to arrest the Boston leaders.

Patriot 8 - Patriot intelligence spreads the alarm by setting signal lights in the Old North Church. Paul Revere and William Dawes see the lights high in the church steeple and ride out into the countryside alerting the surrounding towns.

Loyalist 9 - The British reach Lexington Green in the early morning and find themselves face to face with colonial militiamen. A shot is fired and the war is on.

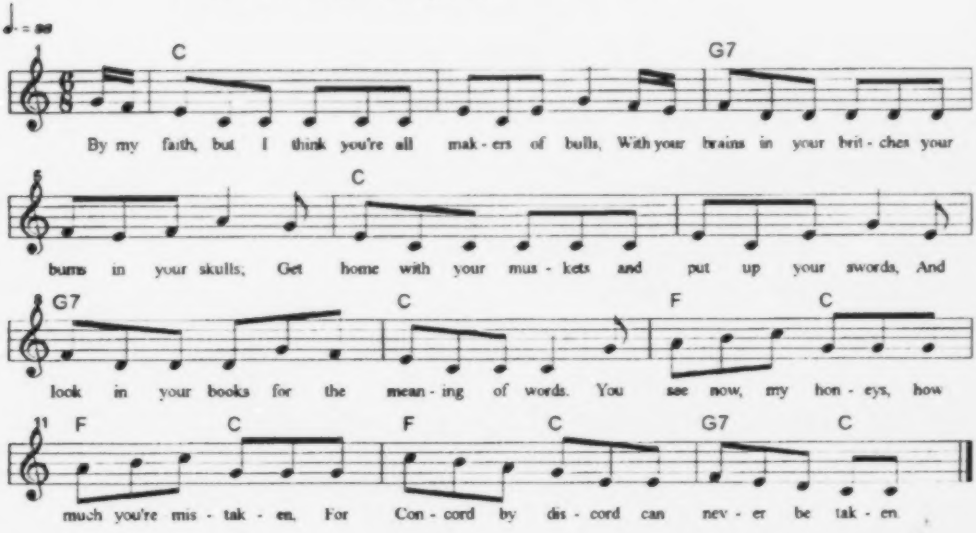
Loyalist 10 - The British soldiers seize the rebel stores at Concord, and begin a long painful retreat to Boston, harassed by militiamen.

British Officer "The Americans always posted themselves in the houses and behind the walls by the roadside, and there waited the approach of the column, when they fired at it... As soon as the column passed they mounted their horses again, and rode around until they got ahead of the column, and found some convenient place from whence they might fire again."



Loyalist 11 - The British can make no defense. 70 are killed and 200 wounded before the redcoats are safely back in Boston.

Patriot 12 - The tables had been turned on the British; the besiegers had become the besieged. Britain's predicament, bottled up in Boston, was expressed in a mocking patriot song.

The Irishman's Epistle

C
G7
By my faith, but I think you're all mak - ers of bulls, With your brains in your brit - ches your
C
bums in your skulls; Get home with your mus - kets and put up your swords, And
G7
C
F
C
look in your books for the mean - ing of words. You see now, my hon - eys, how
11
F
C
F
C
G7
C
much you're mis - tak - en, For Con - cord by dis - cord can nev - er be tak - en.

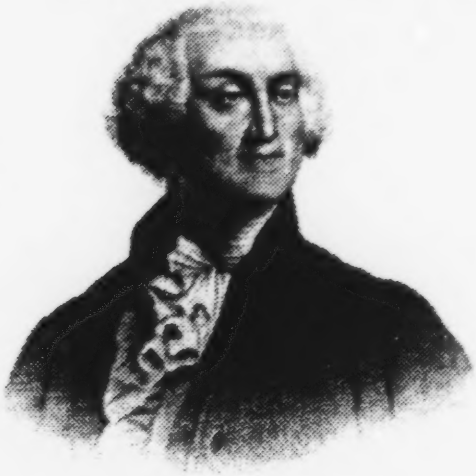
By my faith, but I think you're all makers of bulls,
Your brains in your breeches your bums in your skulls;
Get home with your muskets and put up your swords,
And look in your books for the meaning of words.
You see now, my honeys, how much you're mistaken,
For Concord by discord can never be taken.

How brave you went out with your muskets all bright,
And thought to befrighten the folk with the sight;
But when you got there how they powdered your pums.
And all the way home how they peppered your bums.
And is it not, honeys, a comical crack
To be proud in the face and shot in the back?

With all of your talking and all of your wording,
And all of your shouting and marching and swording,
How come ye to think now they didn't know how
To be after their firelocks as smartly as you?
You see now my honeys, 'tis nothing at all,
But to pull at the trigger and pop goes the ball.

And what have you got now for all your designing,
But a town without vittles to sit down and dine in,
And stare at the floor and scratch at your noodles,
And sing how the Yankees have beaten the Doodles.
I'm sure if you're, you'll make peace for a dinner,
For fighting and fasting will soon make you thinner.

vocabulary
pums: wigs
bums: rear ends
vittles: food



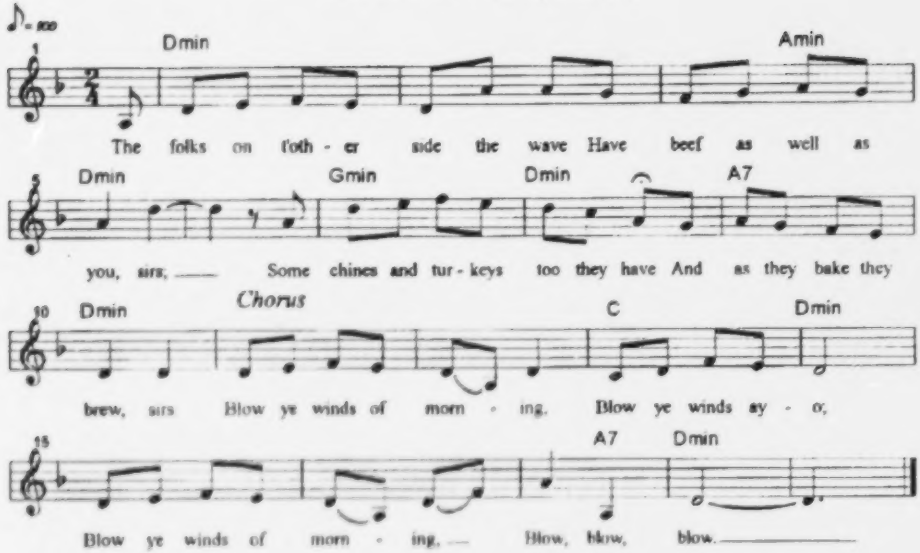
George Washington

Loyalist 13 - Many things changed after the battle of Lexington and Concord. Although war had not been declared a state of war existed. Royal authority began to disintegrate throughout the colonies. Some Royal governors sailed for England. Others, like the Earl of Dunmore, Royal Governor of Virginia, fled to the protection of British warships. In colony after colony revolutionary conventions assembled, established committees to carry forward the work of organizing resistance against the British, and began to set up a new machinery of government.

Patriot 14 - The Continental Congress assembled in Philadelphia in June 1775, and appointed Virginia's George Washington, as Commander-in-Chief of all American field forces.

Patriot 15 - British rulers did not ponder the meaning of these events. Voices in Britain warned that there would be bitter resistance in America to the unjust policies of British rule. Americans, they said, would fight bravely in defense of their families and their homes.

To the Commons

Tune: Blow Ye Winds of Morning

Dmin
Amin
The folks on t'oth - er side the wave Have beef as well as
Dmin
Gmin
Dmin
A7
you, sirs, — Some chines and tur - keys too they have And as they bake they
Dmin
Chorus
C
Dmin
brew, sirs Blow ye winds of morn - ing, Blow ye winds ay - o,
A7
Dmin
Blow ye winds of morn - ing, — Blow, blow, blow.

The folks on t'other side the wave
Have beef as well as you, sirs;
Some chines and turkeys too they have
And as they bake they brew, sirs.

Chorus Blow ye winds of morning,
Blow ye winds ay-o;
Blow ye winds of morning,
Blow, blow, blow

What though your cannon raze their towns
And tumble down their houses,
They'll fight like devils, blood and bones,
For children and for spouses.

Chorus

Another truth, nay, 'tis no boast,
Nor yet the lie o' the day, sirs;
The saints on Massachusetts coast
Gain if they run away, sirs.

Chorus

For further than your bullets fly,
A common man may run sirs.
And wheat will grow beneath a sky
Where cannot reach a gun, sirs.

Chorus

vocabulary
raze: flatten
chines: razorbacks, or pig.

Patriot 16 - The British Parliament. March 22, 1775. Edmund Burke, the great Irish statesman, delivers a speech to the House of Commons. The Americans, he said, would fight to the death. "They possess a fierce spirit of liberty...stronger than in any other people on earth."

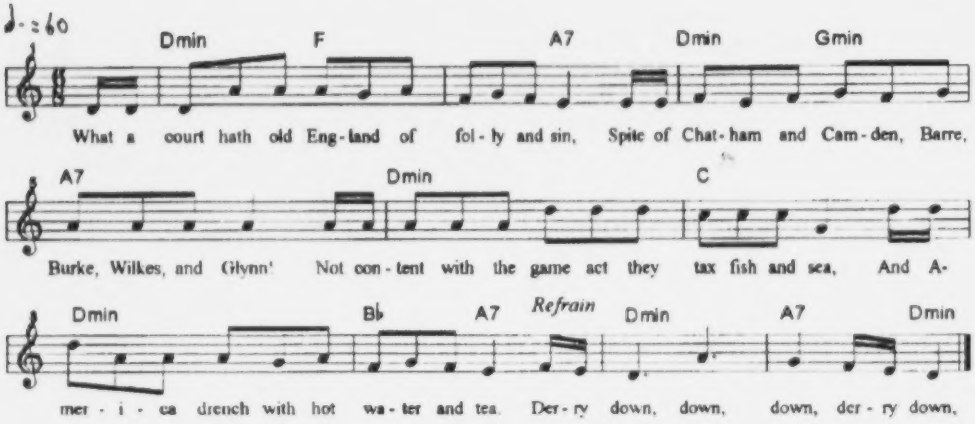
Patriot 17 - That the American people would rise in swarms, that they would fight and die on the cold ground, that they would grow gaunt with hunger, that they would march to war barefoot and half-naked - this the British lords did not believe and could not understand.

Loyalist 18 - May 1775. The British government now began to make serious preparations for a colonial war. It replaced General Gage with a new Commander-in-Chief, Sir William Howe. Howe, along with two other high-ranking officers, Sir John Burgoyne and Sir Henry Clinton, sailed from England and arrived in Boston on the 25th of May. With them came a thousand soldiers, grenadiers, and marines.

Patriot 19 - A song, *Fish and Tea*, lamented the mad course which Parliament had chosen to follow. What folly is this! (says the song). Americans won't submit to tyranny - never!

Sir Henry Clinton

Sir William Howe

Fish and Tea

♩ = 60
Dmin F A7 Dmin Gmin
What a court hath old Eng-land of fol-ly and sin, Spite of Chat-ham and Cam-den, Barre,
A7 Dmin C
Burke, Wilkes, and Glynn' Not con-tent with the game act they tax fish and sea, And A-
Dmin B♭ A7 Refrain Dmin A7 Dmin
mer-i-ca drench with hot wa-ter and tea. Der-ry down, down, down, der-ry down,

What a Court hath old England of folly and sin,
Spite of Chatham, and Camden , Barre, Burke, Wilkes and Glynn!
Not content with the Game Act they tax fish and sea,
And America drench with hot water and tea.

Chorus: Derry down, down, down, derry down.

There's no knowing where this oppression will stop,
Some say there's no cure but a capital chop;
And this I believe's each American's wish,
Since you've drowned them in tea and deprived them of fish.
Chorus

Three generals these mandates have borne 'cross the sea
To deprive them of fish and to make them drink tea;
In turn, sure, these freemen will boldly agree
To give them a dance upon Liberty Tree.
Chorus

Then freedom's the word both at home and abroad,
So out, every scabbard, that hides a good sword!
Our forefathers gave us this freedom in hand,
And we'll die in defense of the rights of the land.
Chorus

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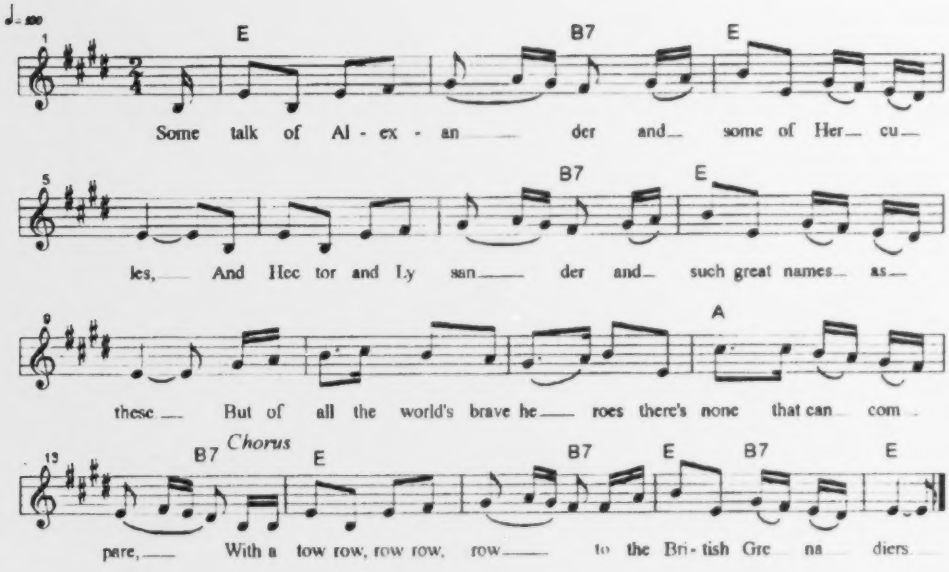
vocabulary
What a Court hath old England: *'Court'* here means Parliament.
Chatham, and Camden, Barre, Burke, Wilkes and Glynn! British leaders sympathetic to the American cause: The Earl of Chatham, English Prime Minister. Lord Camden, British Chief Justice. Edmund Burke, Irish statesman in the House of Commons. Colonel Isaac Barre, Sir John Wilkes, Sergeant Glynn, members of Parliament.
capital chop: a revolutionary act, i.e., the overthrow of British rule.
Three generals these mandates have borne 'cross the sea: Howe, Clinton and Burgoyne.
scabbard: the sheath that holds the sword.

Loyalist 20 - On arriving in Boston, General Howe's first priority was to break the rebel stranglehold on Bunker Hill, the high ground overlooking Boston Harbor. He storms the hill on June 17, 1775.

Loyalist 21 - Two of the king's regiments of Grenadiers take part in the battle. The Grenadiers were England's best troops, with a long battle record and a famous marching song, *The British Grenadiers*.

British Grenadiers

E
B7
E
Some talk of Al - ex - an der and some of Her cu
B7
E
les, And Hec tor and Ly san der and such great names as
A
these But of all the world's brave he roes there's none that can com
Chorus
B7
E
B7
E
B7
E
pare, With a tow row, row row, row to the Bri - tish Gre na diers

Some talk of Alexander and some of Hercules,
And Hector and Lysander and such great names as these.
But of all the world's brave heroes, there's none that can compare,
With a tow row, row row, row, to the British Grenadiers.

Whene'er we are commanded to storm the palisades,
Our leaders march with fuses, and we with hand grenades;
We throw them from the glacis about the enemies' ears,
Sing tow row row row row row, the British Grenadiers.

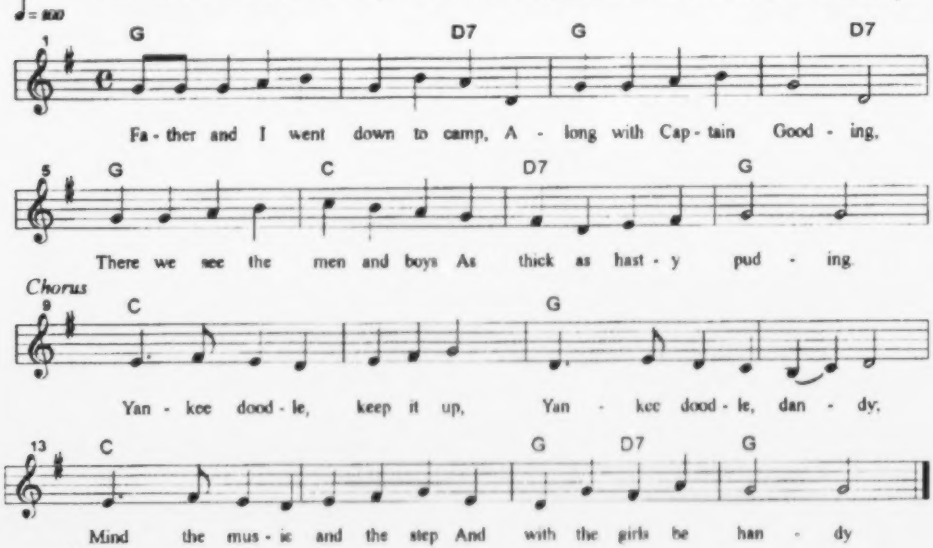
vocabulary
palisades: defensive perimeter
glacis: a small hill before a fortification

Loyalist 22 - Howe drove the American defenders away from Bunker Hill, but suffered terrible losses. 1,000 redcoats out of 2,000 who took part were killed or wounded. "Eight more such victories," said Howe acidly, "and there will be none left to bring the news of them."

Patriot 23 - The American defenders fought a brave battle before pulling back. The British had not expected this, and suffered a rude awakening. For years they had ridiculed colonial soldiers.

A portrait of an African-American by John Singleton Copley. 1738 - 1815

An old song mocked them as Yankee half wits, or 'doodles'. After Bunker Hill, Edward Bangs, a student at Harvard College, wrote new lyrics to the old tune. His *Yankee Doodle*, is one of the most famous American songs. It gives a vivid picture of George Washington's camp and the shy country boys who were the heroes of the American resistance.

Yankee Doodle or, The Yankees Return From Camp

♩= 800
G D7 G D7
Fa - ther and I went down to camp, A - long with Cap - tain Good - ing,
G C D7 G
There we see the men and boys As thick as hast - y pud - ing.
Chorus
C G
Yan - kee dood - le, keep it up, Yan - kee dood - le, dan - dy;
C G D7 G
Mind the mus - ic and the step And with the girls be han - dy

Father and I went down to camp,
Along with Captain Gooding,
There we see the men and boys,
As thick as hasty pudding.

Chorus Yankee doodle, keep it up,
Yankee doodle, dandy;
Mind the music and the step
And with the girls be handy.

And there we see a thousand men,
As rich as Squire David,
And what they wasted every day,
I wish it could be saved.
Chorus

The 'lasses they eat everyday,
Would keep a house a winter.
They have as much as I'll be bound,
They eat it when they're a mind to.
Chorus

And there we see a swamping gun,
Large as a log of maple,
Upon a deuced little cart,
A load for father's cattle.
Chorus

And everytime they shoot it off,
It takes a horn of powder.
It makes a noise like father's gun,
Only a nation louder.
Chorus

And Captain Davis had a gun,
He kind of clapped his hand on 't,
And struck a crooked stabbing iron
Upon the little end on 't.
Chorus

And there I see a pumpkin shell,
As big as mother's basin,
And every time they touched it off,
They scampered like the nation.
Chorus

I see a little barrel too,
The heads were made of leather,
They knocked upon't with little clubs,
And called the folks together.
Chorus

And there was Captain Washington,
And gentle folks about him,
They say he's grown so tarnal proud,
He will not ride without them.
Chorus

He got him on his meeting clothes,
Upon a slapping stallion,
He set the world along in rows,
In hundreds and in millions.
Chorus

The flaming ribbons in their hats,
They looked so taring fine, ah,
I wanted pockily to get,
To give to my Jemimah.
Chorus.

I saw another snarl of men
A-digging graves, they told me,
So tarnal long, so tarnal deep,
They 'tended they should hold me.
Chorus

It scared me so, I hooked it off,
Nor stopped, as I remember,
Nor turned about till I got home,
Locked up in mother's chamber.
Chorus

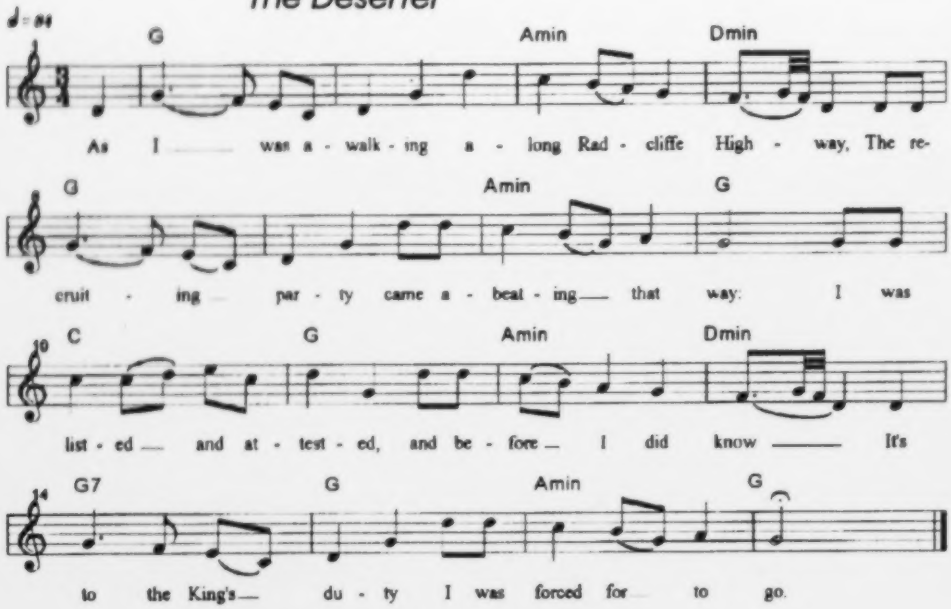
a swamping gun: an artillery piece. A long gun mounted on a gun carriage. Weighing one thousand pounds or more, it would have taken a couple of oxen to haul it.
deuced: devilish, therefore, very.
on 't: on it.
a crooked stabbing iron: Bayonets were in general use in European armies by the early 18th century.
a pumpkin shell: Mortars were used to lob shells for short distances at a high angle.
a little barrel with heads made of leather: The author is pretending he's never seen this common item before. What is he describing?
tarnal: very.
taring: infernal, or, very.
pockily: very badly, i.e., very much. The term probably derived from a reference to small pox scars.
snarl: tangle
'tended they should hold me: i.e., 'these graves were intended to hold people as tall and big as me.'
hooked: got the hell out of there.

Patriot 24 - If the losses which General Howe sustained at Bunker Hill were any indication, the British government would have to spend the lives of thousands of its soldiers in order to win the war. Where would the British find the replacements they would need?

Loyalist 25 - They would not find them in England. The average Englishman had no desire to volunteer for the far away American war. The British Army would have to fill its depleted ranks with mercenaries from Germany, and with the British poor — the sweepings from the city streets

and the jails, the landless peasants and crofters from the Irish bogs and the Scottish Highlands.

Patriot 26 - These men did not make the best of soldiers. Many took the first chance to desert. The British officers despised them and forced them to do 'the King's duty' with ferocious discipline. Floggings, so cruel that numbers were crippled or died as a result, were inflicted on soldiers even for minor offences.

The Deserter

G
Amin
Dmin
As I was a - walk - ing a - long Rad - cliffe High - way, The re-
G
Amin
G
cruit - ing par - ty came a - beat - ing that way: I was
C
G
Amin
Dmin
list - ed and at - test - ed, and be - fore I did know It's
G7
G
Amin
G
to the King's du - ty I was forced for to go.

As I was a-walking along Radcliffe Highway,
The recruiting party came a-beating that way:
I was listed and attested, and before I did know,
It's to the King's duty I was forced for to go.

When first I deserted I thought myself free,
But my cruel companions informed against me;
I was quickly followed after and brought back with speed,
With chains I was loaded, heavy irons on me.

Court martial! Court martial! They held upon me;
And the sentence that they passed was three hundred and three;
May the Lord have mercy on their souls for their sad cruelty,
For now the King's duty lies heavy on me.

vocabulary
listed and attested: the recruit's name was recorded on the roster, and he was made to swear the oath of allegiance.
three hundred and three: read *'lashes.'*

Loyalist 27 - The British also hoped to raise soldiers for their armies by getting Americans themselves to join the British side. In November 1775, the Earl of Dunmore, royal governor of Virginia, issues a Proclamation designed to win new recruits for the British Army.

The Earl of Dunmore "I do declare all indentured servants, Negroes or others... FREE, that are able and willing to bear arms, [on] joining his Majesty's troops, as soon as may be....."

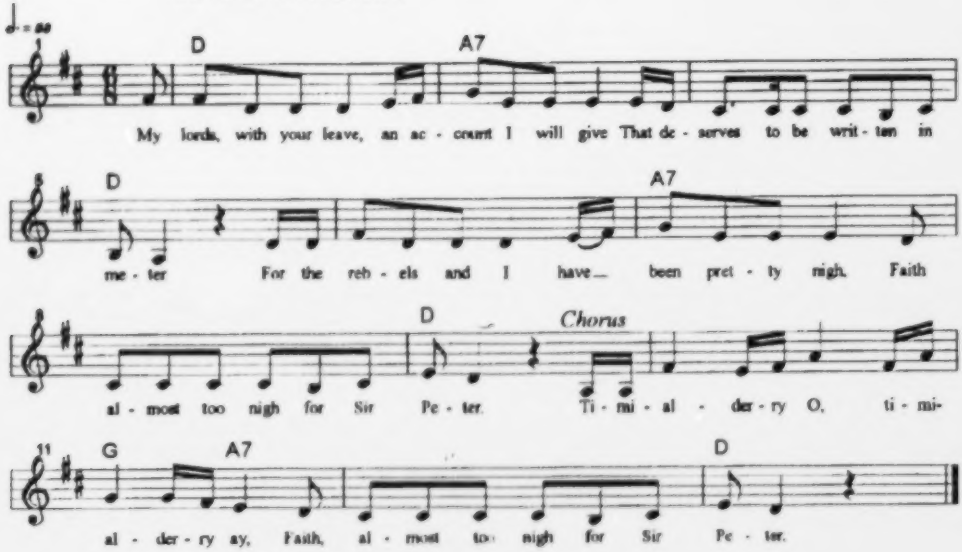
Patriot 28 - As 1775 gave way to 1776 the British were powerless to break through the Boston blockade. In March 1776, eleven months after the 'shot heard around the world' was fired on Lexington Green, Howe and his men packed their bags, boarded their ships, and sailed away to Canada.

Phase 2: The Struggle in the Central Colonies: New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania: Spring, 1776 to Spring, 1778

Loyalist 29 - British plans for 1776 called for Sir William Howe to invade New York City by land and sea. In June 1776, Sir Henry Clinton, along with Sir Peter Parker, also launched an attack on Charleston, South Carolina. They began by attacking Sullivan's Island, hoping to take Fort Sullivan at the island's southern end. This new base would become the reception center for fugitive slaves attracted by the Earl of Dunmore's offer of freedom in return for wartime service.

Patriot 30 - British hopes of a friendly reception in the South were blasted by Colonel Moultrie's skillful defense of Fort Sullivan. Sir Peter in his flagship, *Bristol*, had his pants blown off in the course of the engagement. He and Clinton sailed back to New York squabbling about who was responsible for the disaster. *(For a more detailed account of this engagement, see Notes, page 60.)*

Patriot 31 - Opponents of the American War in England put a song into Sir Peter's mouth, purporting to give his version of the battle. This song soon crossed the Atlantic. Americans rocked with laughter at this insult to Sir Peter's dignity.

Sir Peter Parker

D
A7
My lords, with your leave, an ac - count I will give That de - serves to be writ - ten in
D
A7
me - ter For the reb - els and I have been pret - ty nigh, Faith
D
Chorus
al - most too nigh for Sir Pe - ter. Ti - mi - al - der - ry O, ti - mi-
G
A7
D
al - der - ry ay, Faith, al - most too nigh for Sir Pe - ter.

My lords with your leave, an account I will give
That deserves to be written in meter.
For the rebels and I have been pretty nigh,
Faith almost too nigh for Sir Peter.
Chorus

Timialderry O, Timialderry ay,
(Repeat last line of the verse).

With much labor and toil unto Sullivan's Isle
I came firm as Falstaff or Pistol;
But the Yankees, God rot them, I could not get at them,
They most terribly mauled my poor *Bristol*.
Chorus

Bold Clinton by land did quietly stand
Whilst I made a thundering clatter.
But the channel was deep, so he only could peep
And not venture over the water.
Chorus

Devil take them, their shot, came so swift and so hot,
And the cowardly dogs stood so stiff, sirs,
That I put ship about and was glad to get out,
Or they would not have left me a skiff, sirs.

Chorus

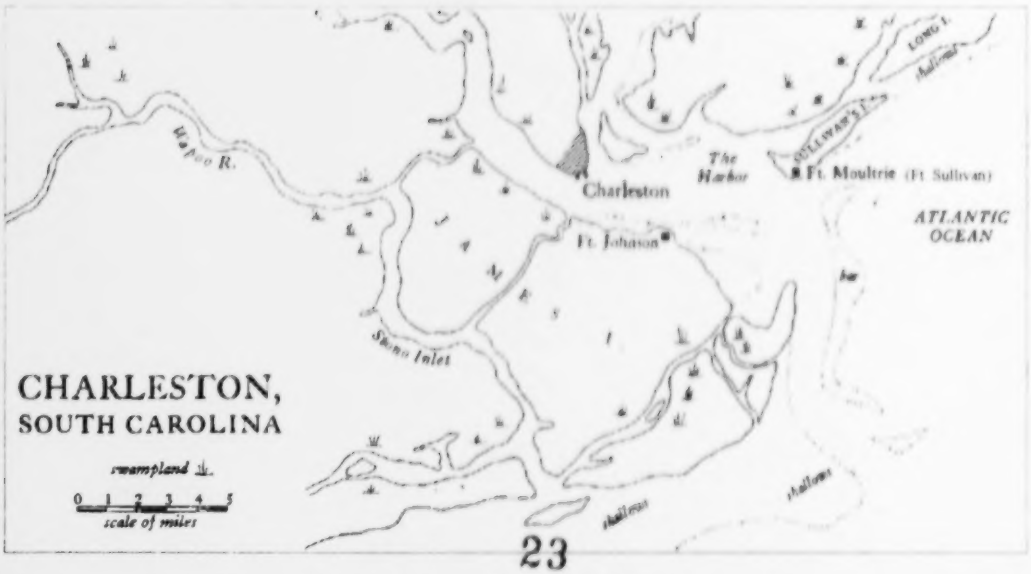
Now bold as a Turk, I proceed to New York,
Where with Clinton and Howe you may find me,
I've the wind in my tail, and am hoisting my sail,
To leave Sullivan's Island behind me.

Chorus

But, my lords, do not fear, for within the next year,
Although a small island could fret us,
The continent whole we shall take, by my soul,
If the cowardly Yankees will let us.

Chorus.

Vocabulary
nigh: near.
Falstaff or Pistol: Shakespearean characters noted for their timidity.
Bristol: Sir Peter's flagship
But the channel was deep: The plan was that Clinton and his men should land on Long Island, just north of Sullivan's Island, cross the inlet that separates the two, and then march south to attack the Fort. But the inlet was too deep for Clinton's men to ford, and he had no boats. Clinton could only 'peep' helplessly at the duel between the Fort and the British Navy that took place in the distance.
skiff: a very small boat.



Folksong In The Classroom P.O. Box 925 Sturbridge, MA 01566

The Declaration of Independence and the Birthright of Freedom

Patriot 32 - The Yankees might laugh at Sir Peter, but for George Washington, the New York campaign which followed was no laughing matter. For months, New Yorkers had been working frantically to fortify the city against an expected attack. These labors went forward with the help of slaves. Their presence in the streets struck a Scottish traveler, Patrick McRoberts, with painful force.

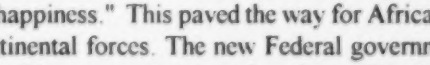
Patrick M. Roberts "It rather hurts a European eye to see so many Negro slaves upon the streets.... There are computed between 26,000 and 30,000 inhabitants [of New York City]; in this number are, I believe, included the slaves, which make at least one fifth part."

Loyalist 33 - June 29, 1776, the British fleet sails into view, and proceeds to land Howe's troops on Staten Island while panic-stricken inhabitants watch. "So vast a fleet," wrote one, "was never before seen in the port of New York, or perhaps in all America.... The multitude of masts carries the appearance of a wood."

Patriot 34 - News of the signing of the *Declaration of Independence* arrives from Philadelphia on July 6. *(Cheers!)* It fans patriotic feelings to passionate intensity. On July 9, a statue of George III on horseback, which the Tories had erected in 1770, is toppled in the presence of a huge crowd. The statue stood at the very tip of Manhattan, near the old colonial fort. Isaac Bangs, a young lieutenant of militia from Massachusetts, writes a description of it in his journal.

Lt. Isaac Bangs. "The design was in imitation of one of the Roman Emperors on horseback. The man, George, is represented about 1/3 larger than a natural man; the horse, in proportion, both neatly constructed of lead gilded with gold, raised on a pedestal of white marble, about 15 feet high, enclosed with a very elegant fence about 10 feet high, the 2 lower feet stone, the remainder of open worked iron; the enclosure was oval, containing 1/4 acre of beautiful green. This, with several churches and other elegant buildings on either side of the spacious street, form a most beautiful prospect from the fort." *(see picture on page 4)*

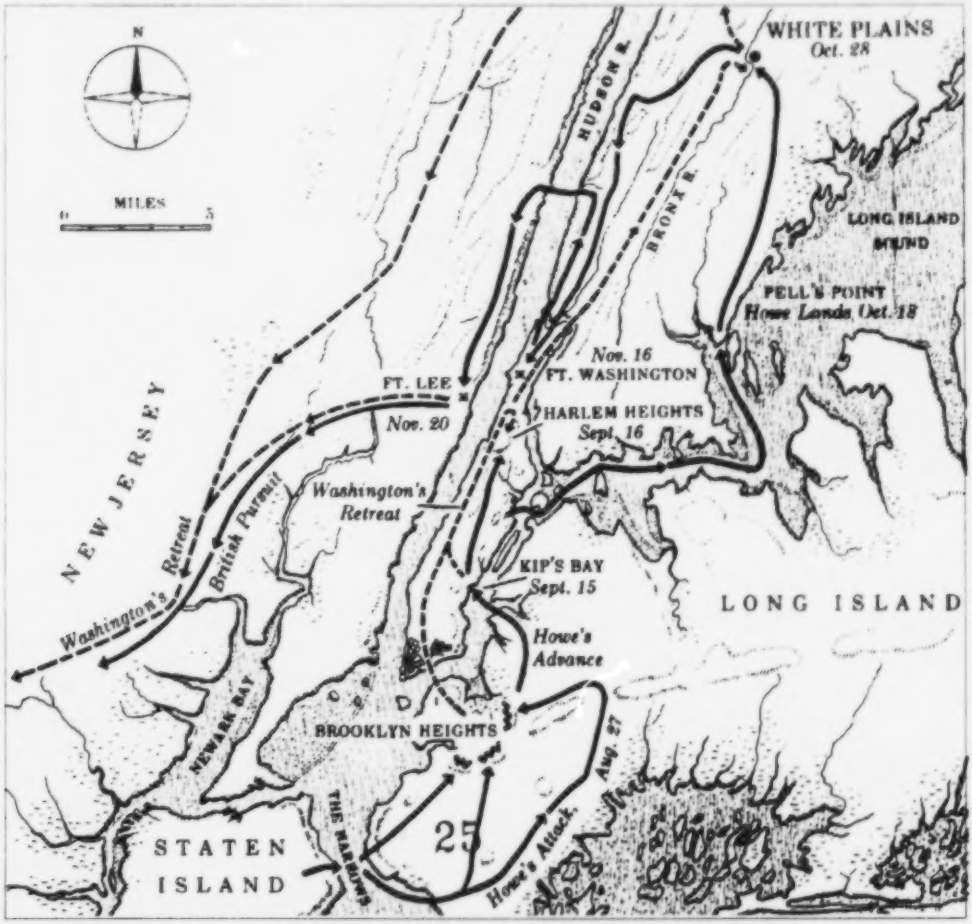
Patriot 35 - The *Declaration of Independence* announced that "all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." This paved the way for African-Americans to serve in the state militias and the Continental forces. The new Federal government recruited Blacks, both slave and free. By the end of the war probably no less than 25% of the Continental troops were African-American.



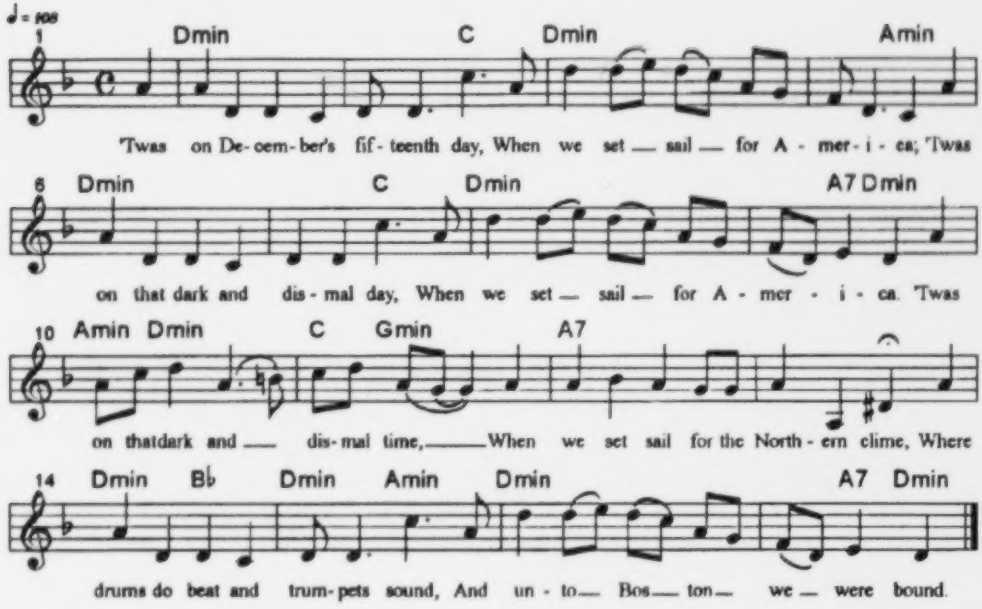
The New York-New Jersey Campaign. July 1776 - Spring 1777

Loyalist 36 - August 27, 1776. There is a frightful thunderstorm with lightning that kills men and animals. The next day General Howe's fleet sails up the East River and lands troops in Brooklyn, New York, where they come within a hair's breadth of destroying Washington's forces. Washington retreats to Manhattan, where his troops flee helter skelter up the island.

Lieutenant Mackenzie (A British officer) "The rebels left great quantity of cannon, ammunition, stores, provisions, tents, etc., behind them, and abandoned those immense works which had cost them infinite labor and pains, without making the least attempt to defend one of them."



Patriot 37 - September 16, the British receive a rude surprise at Morningside Heights on the upper west side of Manhattan, where sheep and cattle graze over rocky pastures. Militiamen who had run in panic the day before, turn upon their pursuers. The battle is indecisive, but it gives rise to one of the Revolution's most famous songs. *The Dying Redcoat*, tells the story of a British soldier wounded during the action and captured by the Americans.

The Dying Redcoat

♩ = 108
1 Dmin C Dmin Amin
'Twas on De- cem- ber's fif- teenth day, When we set sail for A - mer- i - ca; 'Twas
6 Dmin C Dmin A7 Dmin
on that dark and dis - mal day, When we set sail for A - mer - i - ca. 'Twas
10 Amin Dmin C Gmin A7
on thatdark and dis- mal time, When we set sail for the North - ern clime, Where
14 Dmin B♭ Dmin Amin Dmin A7 Dmin
drums do beat and trum- pets sound, And un - to Bos ton we were bound.

'Twas on December's fifteenth day,
When we set sail for America;
'Twas on that dark and dismal day,
When we set sail for America.
'Twas on that dark and dismal time,
When we set sail for the Northern clime,
Where drums do beat and trumpets sound
And unto Boston we were bound.

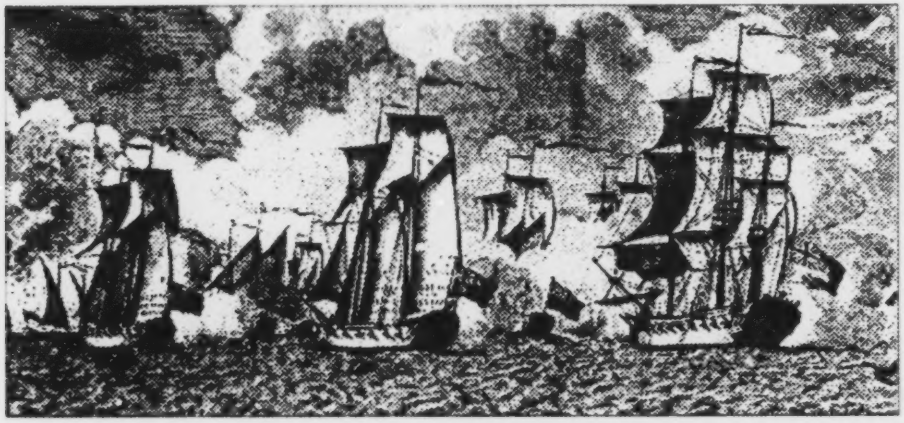
And when to Boston we did come,
We thought by the aid of our British guns,
To drive the rebels from that place,
And fill their hearts with sore disgrace.
But to our sad and sore surprise,
We saw men like grasshoppers rise:
They fought like heroes much enraged,
Which surely frightened General Gage.

Like lions roaring for their prey,
They feared no danger or dismay;
True British blood runs through their veins,
And still with courage they sustain.
We saw those bold Columbia sons,
Spread death and slaughter from their guns
"Freedom or death!" was all their cry,
They did not seem to fear to die.

We came to York, as you've been told,
With the loss of many a Briton bold,
For to make those rebels own our King,
And daily tribute to him bring.
They said it was a garden place,
And that our armies could with ease,
Pull down their towns, lay waste their lands,
In spite of all their boasted bands.

A garden place it was indeed,
And in it grew many a bitter weed,
Which did pull down our highest hopes,
And sorely wound the British troops.
'Tis now September the seventeenth day
I wish I'd ne'er come to America;
Full fifteen hundred have been slain,
Bold British heroes every one.

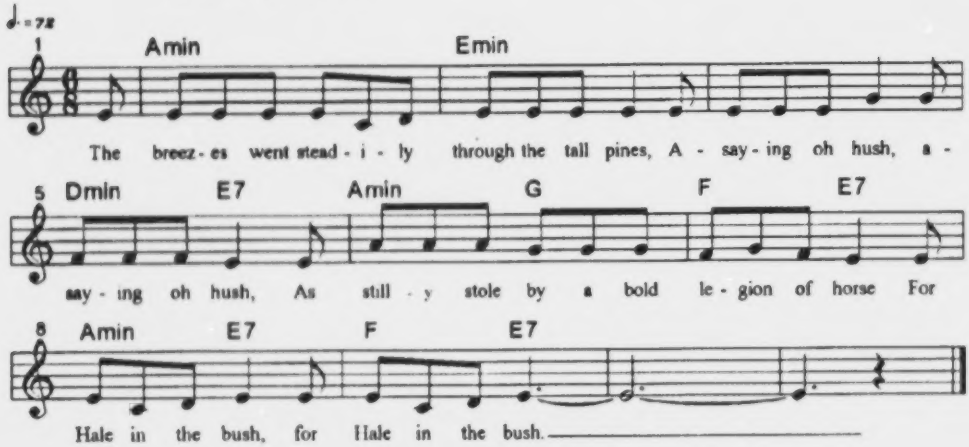
Now I've received my deathly wound,
I bid farewell to England's ground;
My wife and children will mourn for me,
Whilst I lie cold in America.
Fight on, America's noble sons,
Fear not Britannia's thundering guns,
Maintain your cause from year to year,
God's on your side you need not fear.



Patriot 38 - Badly in need of information about the location of the British forces, Washington called for a volunteer to go through the lines as a spy. Young Captain Nathan Hale, a Connecticut schoolmaster, came forward. Captured by the British on the evening of September 21 1776, he was condemned to death at Howe's order. The next morning he was led to the scaffold. There he addressed the American people on the subject of resistance to tyrants.

Nathan Hale. The British are shedding the blood of the innocent. If I had ten thousand lives, I would lay them all down in defense of this injured, bleeding country.

Nathan Hale



The breezes went steadily through the tall pines,
A-saying oh hush, a-saying oh hush,
As stilly stole by a bold legion of horse
For Hale in the bush, for Hale in the bush.

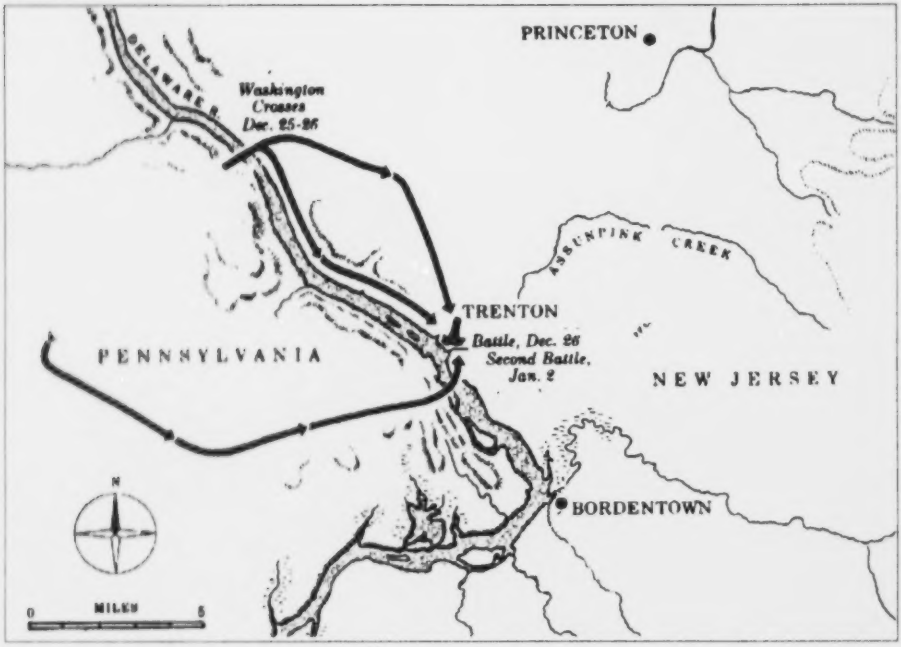
Cooling shades of the night were a-coming a pace,
The tattoo had beat, the tattoo had beat;
The noble one sprang from his dark lurking place,
To make his retreat, to make his retreat.

The guard of the camp on that dark dreary night
Had a murderous will, had a murderous will.
They took him and bore him afar from the shore
To a hut on the hill, to a hut on the hill.

They took him and bound him and bore him away
Down the hill's grassy side, the hill's grassy side,
'Twas there the base hirelings in royal array,
His cause did deride, his cause did deride.

The faith of a martyr the tragedy showed,
As he trod the last stage, as he trod the last stage.
And Britons will shudder at gallant Hale's blood,
As his words do presage, as his words do presage.

vocabulary
stilly: quietly.
for Hale in the bush: (looking) for Hale
tattoo: drum beat
deride: ridicule



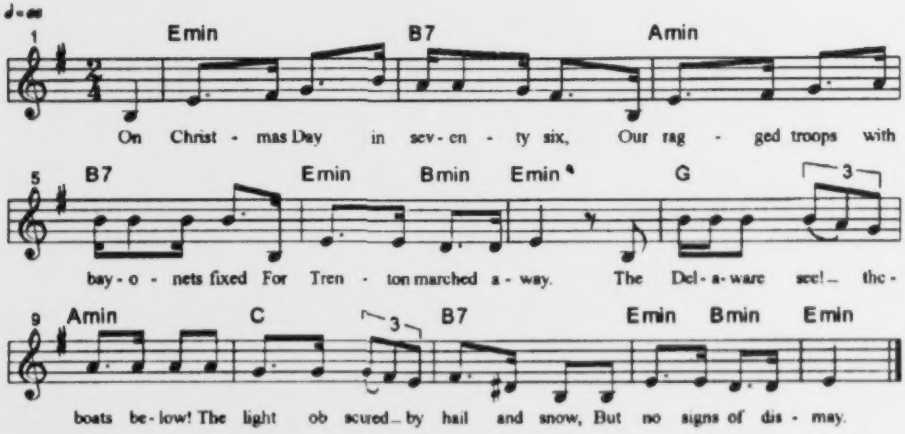
Loyalist 39 - The British continued the pursuit, chasing the rebels across the King's Bridge from Manhattan Island, to the Bronx, into Westchester, over the Hudson river and on into New Jersey. General Washington was gripped by despair. His army had melted away to a few hundred ill-fed, ill-clad soldiers.

Patriot 40 - Christmas Eve, 1776. Washington's men gathered around their camp fires to listen to Thomas Paine, recently arrived from England, who reads to them from a paper in his hand.

Thomas Paine. "These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country; but he that stands it *now*, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly; it is dearness only that gives everything its value. Heaven knows how to put a proper price on goods, and it would be a strange thing indeed, if so celestial an article as *freedom* should not be highly rated."

Patriot 41 - Fortified by these words Washington's troops rowed across the Delaware on Christmas Day and raced to Trenton, New Jersey, where Hessian mercenaries were celebrating the holiday with wine and song. The patriots stormed the town and took the British by surprise. The battle was the first great turning point in the war. During the first months of 1777 all of New Jersey was won back for the American cause.

The Battle of Trenton


Emin B7 Amin
On Christ - mas Day in sev - en - ty six, Our rag - ged troops with
B7 Emin Bmin Emin G
bay - o - nets fixed For Tren - ton marched a - way. The Del - a - ware see! — the -
Amin C B7 Emin Bmin Emin
boats be - low! The light ob scured — by hail and snow, But no signs of dis - may.

On Christmas Day in seventy-six,
Our ragged troops with bayonets fixed
For Trenton marched away.
The Delaware see, the boats below!
The light obscured by hail and snow,
But no signs of dismay.

Our object was the Hessian band,
That dared invade fair freedom's land,
And quarter in that place.
Great Washington he led us on,
Whose streaming flag in storm or sun,
Has never known disgrace.

In silent march we passed the night,
Each soldier panting for the fight,
Though quite benumbed with frost
Greene on the left at six began,
The right was led by Sullivan,
Who never a moment lost.

Their pickets stormed, the alarm was spread,
That rebels risen from the dead,
Were marching into town.
Some scampered here, some scampered there,
And some for action did prepare,
But soon their arms laid down.

Now, brothers of the patriot bands,
Let's sing deliverance from the hands
Of arbitrary sway.
And, as our life is but a span,
Let's touch the tankard while we can,
In memory of that day.

vocabulary
Greene and Sullivan: Nathanael Greene and John Sullivan, two of Washington's most trusted and capable officers.
Tankard: beer

Patriot 42 - April, 1777. Two long years had passed since the battle of Lexington. Yet the British could only boast the occupation of Manhattan -- a hollow boast, since they dared not venture far from the port. Supply lines were cut, foraging parties were ambushed. The people of New Jersey were keeping watch with a thousand eyes. Beyond, out of British reach, Washington held his forces in the hills: watching, waiting.

The Hudson Valley Campaign. June to October 1777

Loyalist 43 - General Sir John Burgoyne's was the last of the trio of British generals who had arrived in Boston in the spring of 1775. Gentleman Johnny, as people called him, was a dandy who lived in style and loved to take wine, women and silks along with him on his military campaigns. During a trip back to England late in 1776, Burgoyne made an address to Parliament and had an audience with the King. He won the government's support for a Hudson Valley campaign, in order to win the war in a single season.

Loyalist 44 - Burgoyne's campaing would start in Montreal and thrust south, into the Hudson River Valley, where he would link up with Howe's forces in Albany, New York. New England would then be isolated from the rest of the colonies. Such a victory, he believed, would be the beginning of the end for the American rebellion.

Loyalist 45 - Burgoyne reached Canada in May, 1777, and placed himself at the head of an army of 10,000 men. In June a long string of transports sailed south on the blue waters of Lake Champlain to the old fortress at Crown Point.

Patriot 46 - Soon everything began to go wrong for Gentleman Johnny. New York and New England militiamen cut his supply line to Canada and destroyed his foraging parties. Continental troops helped slow his advance overland from Fort Ticonderoga to the Hudson River.

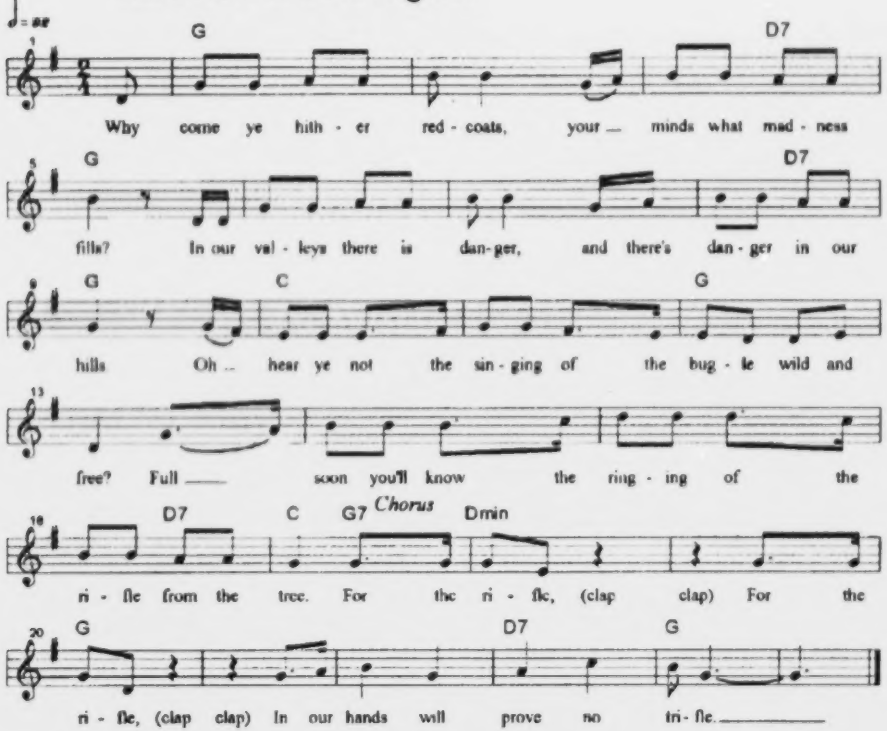
Patriot 47 - The role of these militiamen was highlighted by an encounter at Bennington, Vermont in August, 1777. The previous month, John Stark, a veteran of the New Jersey campaign, had received a commission from New Hampshire to organize a militia brigade. New Englanders flocked to his standard. John Stark commanded nearly 2,000 volunteers by mid-August.

Loyalist 48 - Bennington, Vermont was a patriot supply center, and there were many horses there. These Burgoyne desperately needed in order to transport supplies south from Fort George. The General sent out two large foraging parties commanded by Colonels Baum and Breymann.

General Burgoyne. "...bring in one thousand three hundred horses at least, with all the saddles and bridles that can be found, together with all the wagons, carriages, draft oxen, and cattle fit for slaughter."

Patriot 49 - But the foraging parties brought in no horses, no carriages, and no cattle. On August 16, they ran smack into John Stark. Stark's militiamen totally defeated them in two separate encounters on the same day This blow denied Burgoyne the supplies he needed so badly, and reduced his force by a thousand men wounded, captured, or dead.

Patriot 50 - A song was written to commemorate the August 16 engagements, and the part that New Englanders played in Burgoyne's defeat.

Riflemen of Bennington

G
D7
Why come ye hith - er red - coats, your — minds what mad - ness
G
D7
fills? In our val - leys there is dan - ger, and there's dan - ger in our
G
C
G
hills Oh — hear ye not the sin - ging of the bug - le wild and
free? Full — soon you'll know the ring - ing of the
D7
C
G7
Chorus
Dmin
ri - fle from the tree. For the ri - fle, (clap clap) For the
G
D7
G
ri - fle, (clap clap) In our hands will prove no tri - fle.

Why come ye hither redcoats, your minds what madness fills?
In our valleys there is danger, and there's danger in our hills.
O hear ye not the singing of the bugle wild and free?
Full soon you'll hear the ringing of the rifle from the tree.

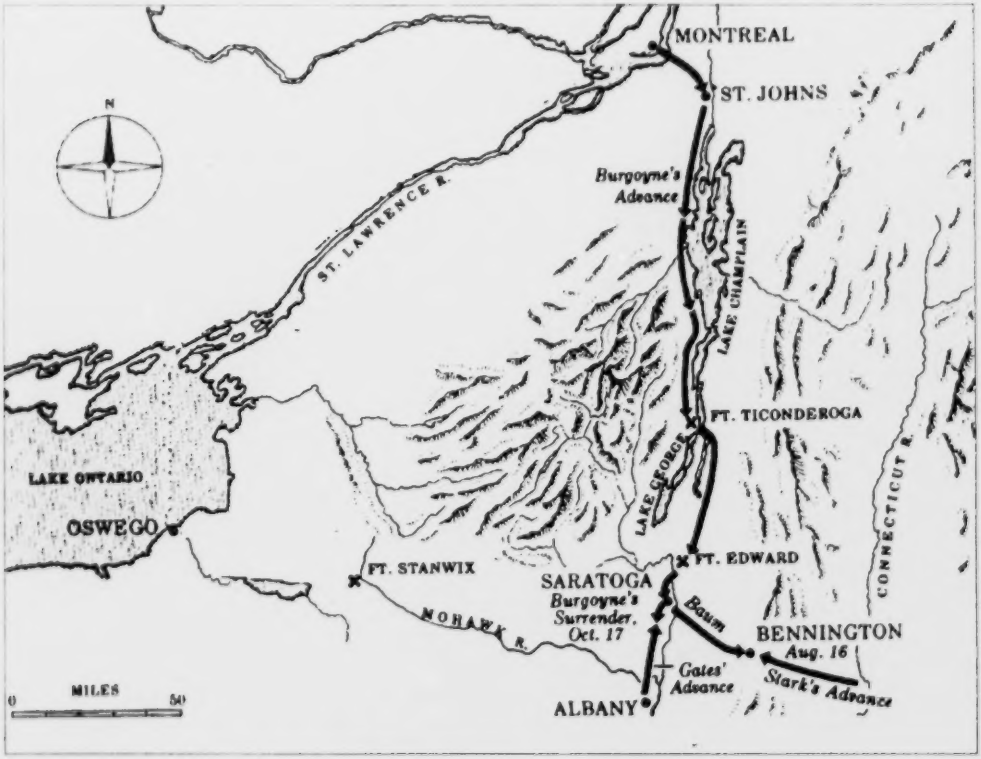
Chorus For the rifle, *(clap, clap)* the rifle, *(clap, clap)*
In our hands will prove no trifle.

Ye ride a goodly steed, ye may know a better master,
Ye forward with some speed, but ye'll learn to back much faster
When you meet our mountain boys and their leader Johnny Stark;
Lads who make but little noise, lads who always hit the mark.
Chorus

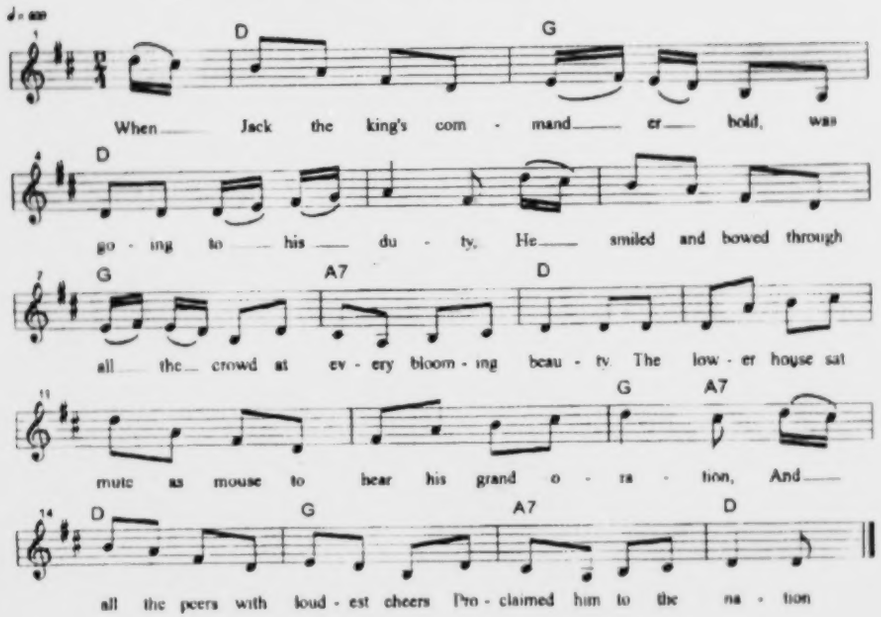
Have you no graves at home, that you cross the briny water,
And hither you must come like bullocks to the slaughter?
If we the job must do, why, the sooner 'tis begun,
If flint and trigger work but true, the quicker 'twill be done.
Chorus

Loyalist 51 - Continental troops and militiamen brought Burgoyne to a stop as he moved slowly down the west bank of the Hudson River. In October, 1777, the decisive battles of Bemis Heights and Freeman's Farm were fought. Burgoyne's own mistakes and his enemy's valor brought him to surrender his army at Saratoga. This American victory was a turning point in the war.

Patriot 52 - One American song writer summed up the story of Burgoyne's campaign in three swift verses.



The Fate of John Burgoyne

(tune: The Girl I Left Behind Me)

D G
When Jack the king's com - mand - er bold, was
D
go - ing to his du - ty, He smiled and bowed through
G A7 D
all the crowd at ev - ery bloom - ing beau - ty. The low - er house sat
G A7
mute as mouse to hear his grand o - ra - tion, And
D G A7 D
all the peers with loud - est cheers Pro - claimed him to the na - tion

When Jack, the king's commander bold, was going to his duty,
He smiled and bowed through all the crowd at every blooming beauty.
The Lower House sat mute as mouse to hear his grand oration,
And all the peers with loudest cheers proclaimed him to the nation.

Then off he went to Canada, next to Ticonderoga,
And quitting those, away he goes, straightway to Saratoga.
But the sons of freedom gathered round, his hostile bands confounded,
And when they'd fain have turned their backs they
found themselves surrounded.

In vain they fought, in vain they fled, their chief humane and tender,
To save the rest soon thought it best, his forces to surrender.
Thus may America's brave sons with honor be rewarded,
And be the fate of all our foes the same as here recorded.

vocabulary
Lower House: House of Commons
all the peers: the House of Lords

The Pennsylvania Campaign July 1777 to May 1778

Loyalist 53 - In July 1777, during the summer that was bringing disaster to Burgoyne, General Howe embarks his troops at Staten Island, and sails away from New York City.

Patriot 54 - Washington assumes that Howe is moving up the Hudson River to help Burgoyne.

Loyalist 55 - But no; on July 23, Howe's troop transports weigh anchor off Manhattan, and sail away to the south. It is an awesome sight. 260 tall ships moving silently amid a cloud of billowing white canvas. Four days later the fleet is reported off the capes of Delaware Bay. Early in August 1777, Howe lands his troops on the Elk River at the northeastern end of Chesapeake Bay, and marches toward Brandywine Creek on his way to Philadelphia.

Patriot 56 - By this time Washington has recovered from his surprise. He brings his troops down to Brandywine Creek, southwest of Philadelphia, fights a defensive battle with Howe on September 11, and then falls back. Two weeks later a British advance party under the Earl of Cornwallis occupies America's capital city.

Patriot 57 - On October 4, Washington launches a surprise attack on the main British forces encamped outside Philadelphia in the village of Germantown. This gives spirit to his weary, hungry, rain-sodden troops.

Loyalist 58 - On October 18, the American cannon fire a victory salute. The sound is heard in Philadelphia and the British troops know for whom the cannon thunders. General Burgoyne has surrendered at Saratoga with his entire Northern Army.

Patriot 59 - Early in December, Washington took his troops into winter quarters at Valley Forge on the wooded slopes of the Schuylkill River, 18 miles northwest of Philadelphia. There the patriots would keep watch on Howe through the long winter months of 1777-78.

Patriot 60 - The first weeks were a time of bitter suffering for the Americans. They froze and starved amid the silence and the snow; many died.

Patriot 61 - In January 1778, conditions began to improve. The soldiers went foraging, cut timber and hauled stone to build their huts. They found their way around the countryside and made friends with the people. Private Joseph Martin, of the 8th Connecticut Regiment, was a seventeen year old New Englander who had arrived in Valley Forge early in December 1777. Martin served throughout the war and suffered much, but he complained little about the winter he spent at Valley Forge.

Joseph Martin. "In the winter of 1777-1778, we fared much better than I had ever done in the army before, or ever did afterwards. We had very good provisions all winter...When we were in the country, we were pretty sure to fare well, for the inhabitants were remarkably kind to us."

Patriot 62 - Early in January 1778, American soldiers had a good laugh when Captain David Bushnell, an officer in the 8th Connecticut, organized his own private offensive against the British. Captain Bushnell collected about a dozen wooden kegs, filled them with gunpowder, installed fuses, and launched them on the Schuylkill river. It was the ingenious captain's hope that the kegs would bump into a British ship or two, anchored downstream off Philadelphia, and explode.

Loyalist 63 - One of the kegs did explode. Some say it hit a piece of driftwood; others that two small boys found it and set it off by accident. The incident attracted the attention of the British. For hours afterwards soldiers were taking pot shots at every piece of driftwood or floating ice that was to be seen.

Patriot 64 - The incident was made to order for a talented American propagandist, Francis Hopkinson of New Jersey, who was one of the signers of the *Declaration of Independence*. His ballad *The Battle of the Kegs*, sung to the tune of *Yankee Doodle*, made people laugh everywhere, including Philadelphia. Beneath the ridicule showered on the British lay a serious message. 'Do not be afraid of the British! It is they who are afraid of you.'

The Battle of the Kegs *(tune: Yankee Doodle)*

Gallants attend, and hear a friend
Trill forth harmonious ditty.
Strange things I'll tell, which late befell
In Philadelphia city.
'Twas early day, as poets say
Just when the sun was rising,
A soldier stood on a log of wood
And saw a thing surprising.

As in amaze he stood to gaze,
The truth can't be denied, sir,
He spied a score of kegs or more,
Come floating down the tide, sir.
A sailor too, in jerkin blue,
The strange appearance viewing,
First damned his eyes, in great surprise,
Then said, some mischief's brewing.

These kegs now hold the rebels bold,
Packed up like pickled herring,
And they're come down to attack the town
In this new way of ferrying.
The soldier flew, the sailor too,
And scared almost to death, sir,
Wore out their shoes, to spread the news,
And ran til out of breath, sir.

Now up and down, throughout the town,
Most frantic scenes were acted:
And some ran here, and some ran there
Like men almost distracted.
Some 'fire' cried, which some denied,
But said the earth had quak-ed,
And girls and boys, with hideous noise,
Ran through the streets half naked.

Sir William he, snug as a flea
Lay all this time a-snoring.
Nor dreamed of harm as he lay warm
In bed with Mrs. Loring.
Now in a fright he starts upright,
Awak'd by such a clatter.
He rubs his eyes and boldly cries,
"For God's sake, what's the matter?"

At his bedside he then espied
Sir Erskine at command, sir,
Upon one foot he had one boot,
And t'other in his hand, sir.
"Arise! Arise!" Sir Erskine cries,
"The rebels, more's the pity,
Without a boat are all on float,
And ranged before the city."

"The motley crew, in vessels new
With Satan for their guide, sir,
Packed up in bags, or wooden kegs,
Coming driving down the tide, sir.
Therefore prepare for bloody war.
These kegs must all be routed,
Or surely we despised shall be,
And British courage doubted."

The royal band now ready stand,
All ranged in dread array, sir,
With stomach stout, to see it out,
And make a bloody day, sir.
The cannons roar, from shore to shore.
The small arms make a rattle.
Since wars began, I'm sure no man
E'er saw so strange a battle.

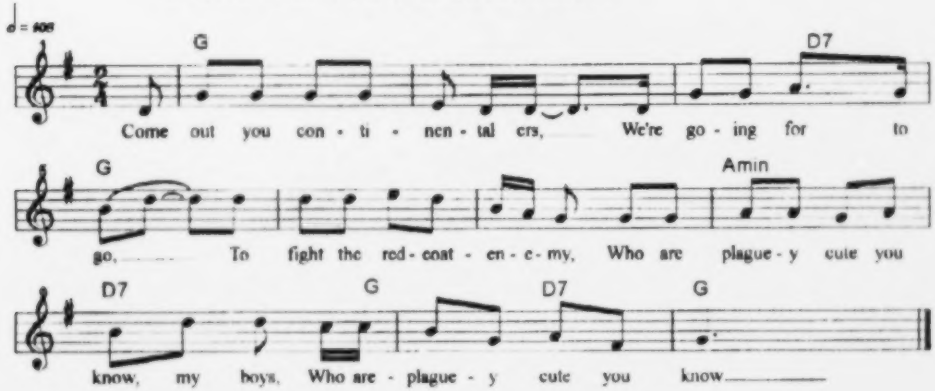
These kegs, 'tis said, though strongly made
Of rebel staves and hoops, sir,
Could not oppose their powerful foes,
The conquering British troops, sir.
From morn 'til night, these men of might
Displayed amazing courage,
And when the sun was fairly down
Retired to sup their porridge.

A hundred men with each a pen,
Or more upon my word, sir,
It is most true, would be too few,
Their valor to record, sir.
Such feats did they perform that day
Upon those wicked kegs, sir,
That years to come, if they get home,
They'll make their boasts and brags, sir.

vocabulary
Jerkin blue: blue shirt
Mrs. Loring: wife of Joshua Loring, Howe's Commissary of Prisons.
Sir Erskine: Brigadier General Sir William Erskine.

Patriot 65 - In addition to lumbering, building huts, and foraging, the men at Valley Forge spent time building fortifications and doing guard duty. When Frederick Steuben, a Prussian military officer, turned up in February 1778, they were also regularly drilled. Steuben trained his own American drillmasters: soon he had the whole army marching up and down, or practicing the manual of arms.

Loyalist 66 - Tory wits found the spectacle amusing.

Come Out You Continentalers

G
D7
Come out you con - ti - nen - tal ers, We're go - ing for to
G
Amin
go, To fight the red - coat - en - e - my, Who are plague - y cute you
D7
G
D7
G
know, my boys, Who are - plague - y cute you know

Come out you continentalers,
We're going for to go,
To fight the redcoat enemy,
Who are plaguey cute you know, my boys,
Who are plaguey cute you know.

Now shoulder whoop! Eyes right and dress!
Front! Davis, wipe your nose.
Port whoop! That's slick; now carry, whoop!
Mike Jones, turn out your toes, my boy,
Mike Jones, turn out your toes.

Fix bayonets! That's your sort, my boys,
Now quick time march! That's right!
Just so we'd poke the enemy
If they were but in sight, my boys,
If they were but in sight.

Halt! shoulder whoop! Stop laughing, Nick!
By platoons wheel, right dress!
Hold up your muzzles on the left,
No talking - more or less - my boys,
No talking more or less.

Bill Sneezer, keep your canteen down,
We're going for to travel.
"Captain, I wants to halt a bit,
My shoes is full of gravel, sir,
My shoes is full of gravel."

Ho! Strike up music! Forward march!
Come point your toes Bob Rogers.
See, yonder come the redcoat men!
Let's fly upon them soldiers, boys,
Let's fly upon them soldiers.

The French Alliance May 1778

Patriot 67 - When news reached Paris in December 1777, of the victory over Burgoyne at Saratoga and Washington's attack on at Germantown, the French government moved rapidly to conclude an alliance with the United States. It was the *Declaration of Independence* in 1776, coupled with the American victories of 1777, which won for the U. S. this diplomatic victory.

Patriot 68 - On May 2, 1778, when Washington and his army were still encamped at Valley Forge, Simeon Deane, a merchant, brought the text of the treaty signed in Paris in February. Benjamin Franklin signed for the United States of America, Louis Gerard, for the King of France.

Loyalist 69 - The French alliance, linked with the American victory at Saratoga, was a turning point in the Revolutionary War. It ensured support for the Americans in men, money and arms. Equally decisive, it threw the French Navy onto the scales against the British.

Patriot 70 - On May 6, Valley Forge was the scene of a celebration. The army went on parade. Brigade chaplains read the text of the treaty, offered prayers of thanksgiving, and delivered sermons. Afterwards the troops marched and wheeled, and guns were fired.

New York Journal. May 6, 1778. "The gradual progression of the sound from the discharge of cannon and musketry, swelling and rebounding from the neighboring hills, and gently sweeping along the Schuylkill, with the intermingled huzzas... composed a military music more agreeable to a soldier's ear than the most finished pieces of your favorite Handel."

Patriot 71 - Washington threw a party for the officers. Refreshments stood on tables shaded by marquees. A band played. Wine flowed and glasses were raised in toasts:

American Officers
"To the King of France!"
"To the American States!!"
"To His Excellency George Washington!!!"
"To the Honorable Congress!!!!" *(Cheers!)*

Loyalist 72 - The prospect of the arrival of a French fleet had an immediate impact on British strategy. Sir Henry Clinton was now commander-in-chief of the British forces, Howe having returned to England. Clinton risked losing control of the sea by dividing his strength between Rhode Island, New York and Philadelphia. He had no choice but to evacuate Philadelphia and withdraw to New York.

Patriot 73 - George Washington won back Philadelphia without striking a blow.

Loyalist 74 - Early in June 1778, Clinton put his army across the Delaware River at Gloucester Point. The troops wound in a long line over the Jersey flats.

Joseph Martin. ". We followed them several days, arriving upon their camping ground within an hour after their departure from it. We [saw] the devastation they made in

their rout; cattle killed and lying about the fields and pastures..."

Loyalist 75 - At Monmouth, New Jersey, the Americans caught up with the British and mauled them badly in a battle fought on June 28. The heat was sweltering. British soldiers endured agonies in their heavy winter woollies; many died of heat prostration.

Patriot 76 - The Americans did not suffer nearly as much from the heat as their antagonists. As Joseph Martin pointed out:. " ...a fourth part of our troops had not a scrap of anything but their ragged shirt flaps to cover their nakedness."

Loyalist 77 - July 1778. Sir Henry Clinton was back in New York City and his men were wearily building new fortifications. Over three years had passed since Lexington and Concord, yet the British were still bottled up on two small islands on the eastern edge of the vast continent: Rhode Island and Manhattan.

Phase 3: Dark Days. Stalemate, 1778 - 1780

Patriot 78 - M. Louis Gerard, first French ambassador to the United States, arrived in Philadelphia in early August. He was escorted to the State House in Philadelphia where the Congressmen were waiting. As the *New York Journal* reported:

New *York Journal*. "The President, the Congress, and the Minister rose together: he bowed to the President and Congress; they bowed to him; whereupon the whole seated themselves. In a moment the minister arose and made a speech."

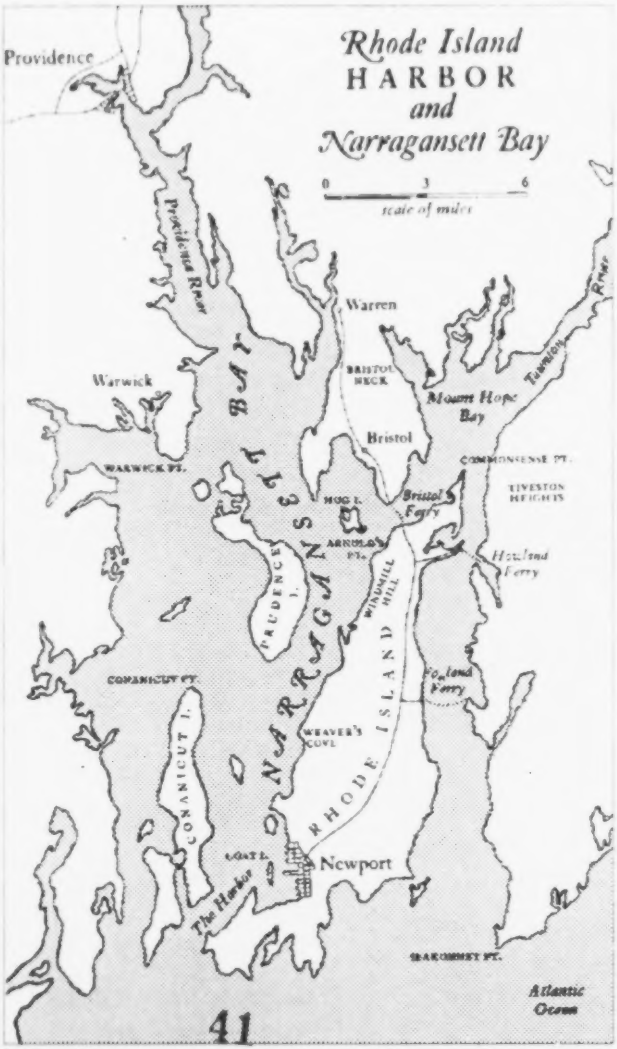
Patriot 79 - A French fleet under the command of Admiral, Comte d'Estaing, had arrived in July and anchored off the coast at New York City. On August 10, Washington and d'Estaing planned a joint campaign to attack the British at Newport, Rhode Island.

Loyalist 80 - Newport was a fine harbor on the southwestern side of Rhode Island in Narragansett Bay. The British had occupied it in December 1776, at the close of their victorious New York campaign. Newport was a center for the collection of supplies. It was also a good naval station for the refitting and provisioning of ships. Newport provided a base for furthur operations by the British.

Patriot 81 - The Washington-d'Estaing plan called for an invasion of Rhode Island by 10,000 Continental troops and militia, with Generals John Sullivan, Nathanael Green and John Hancock in command. The role of the French navy was to blockade Newport and to prevent British reinforcements and supplies from reaching Newport Harbor.

Patriot 82 - July 29, 1778. The militia assemble for the attack on Conanicut Island, west of Newport. The French fleet - 12 battleships and 2 frigates - arrive and enter the harbor. The British at once burn their own vessels in order to avoid capture.

Patriot 83 - A few days later a British flotilla under the command of Admiral Richard Howe is sighted. A fresh wind from the southwest is bringing it at full speed along Long Island Sound toward Newport. The wind changes. D'Estaing moves out of Narragansett Bay to challenge the British.



Loyalist 84 - But on August 11 the winds increase to hurricane force. Both fleets are scattered and damaged. Howe makes his way back to New York to refit, and d'Estaing sails off to Boston, turning a deaf ear to the pleas of the American officers to continue cooperating with the invasion of Rhode Island, which had already begun.

Loyalist 85 - Without the French blockade, the Americans are left with no alternative but to evacuate Rhode Island as fast as they can, and not a moment too soon. On September 1, when the last Americans are leaving the island, Sir Henry Clinton sails into Narragansett Bay with 70 sail and 8 regiments of troops.

Loyalist 86 - Tories hug each other in glee at the ignominious end to the Rhode Island expedition. A witty song published in *the Rivington's Gazette*, October 3, 1778.

YANKEE DOODLE'S EXPEDITION TO RHODE ISLAND

(Tune: Yankee Doodle)

From Louis, Monsieur Gerard came
To Congress in this town, sir,
They bowed to him, and he to them,
And then they all sat down, sir.
"Begar," said Monsieur, "one *grand coup*
You shall *bientot* behold, sir,"
This was believed as gospel true,
And Jonathan felt bold, sir.

So Yankee Doodle did forget
The sound of British drum, sir,
How oft it made him quake and sweat
In spite of Yankee rum, sir.
He took his wallet on his back,
His rifle on his shoulder,
And vowed Rhode Island to attack
Before he was much older.

In dread array their tattered crew
Advanced with colors spread, sir,
Their fifes played Yankee-doodle-doo,
King Hancock at their head, sir.
What numbers bravely crossed the seas,
I cannot well determine,
A swarm of rebels and of fleas
And every other vermin.

As Jonathan so much desired
To shine in martial glory,
d'Estaing with *politesse* retired
To leave him all the glory.
He left him what was better yet,
At least it was more use, sir,
He left him for a quick retreat
A very good excuse, sir.

To stay unless he ruled the sea,
He thought would not be right, sir,
And Continental troops, said he,
On islands should not fight, sir.
Another cause with these combined
To throw him in the dumps, sir,
For Clinton's name alarmed his mind,
And made him stir his stumps, sir.

Vocabulary:
grand coup: decisive blow
bientot: right now
Jonathan: slang for Yankee
politesse: politely
stir his stumps: get moving

Loyalist 87 - Thus the bright promise of the spring of 1778 was not borne out. The colonial cause faced its darkest hour, for stalemate had set in. The British were powerless to occupy American soil and subdue the new nation; the patriots were too weak to drive the British out.

Patriot 88 - The horror of stalemate was underlined in 1778 and 1779 by incessant British and Tory raids upon coastal communities and frontier settlements. These raids grew in brutality and spread panic throughout British America. The British began to use terror in order to intensify American war-weariness and crush the American will to resist. In the words of a British officer:

Captain Mackenzie "'Tis now become evident that this way of carrying on the war [the burning of towns and the destruction of property] is the only effectual method of bringing the rebels to a sense of their duty."

Loyalist 89 - Colonel John Butler was a loyalist from Connecticut who headed a band of Tories and Indians. On November 11, 1778, he and 800 men descended on the outlying settlement of Cherry Valley in New York, attacked Fort Alden, and then turned their full fury on the community.

A Continental Officer "The enemy killed, scalped, and most barbarously murdered, thirty-two inhabitants, chiefly women and children.... They burnt twenty houses with all the grain, etc.... They committed the most inhuman barbarities on most of the dead... Many of the inhabitants and soldiers shut out from the fort, lay all night in the rain with the children, who suffered very much. The cattle that were not easy to drive, they [the Tories] shot."

Loyalist 90 - The same month, at the far end of the country, 500 Tories made a raid on Sunbury, Georgia, driving off 1,000 head of cattle, 200 horses, and a number of slaves; and burning all the houses in their path.

Patriot 91 - An ambitious raid was conducted in July 1779, against New Haven and Fairfield, Connecticut. Transports landed 2,000 men on July 4, many of whom were Hessian mercenaries. They engaged in an orgy of looting and destruction. *The New York Journal* wrote:

The New York Journal "The few men who stayed in town, most of whom were old, infirm, or Tories, were ...stripped and plundered of everything valuable about them, and on the slightest pretense, or even without any pretense at all, inhumanly stabbed with bayonets, shot, or otherwise murdered. . . .Few, if any, of the young women nor not all the old, or even the Negroes, escaped violation; some in the presence of their husbands, and others by great numbers successively."

Loyalist 92 - British writers and Tories denied these charges. They also argued that, even if the charges were true, the Americans alone were to blame for their sufferings. They had brought the war upon themselves by their stubborn, wrong-headed resistance. An article in *The New York Gazette* stated:

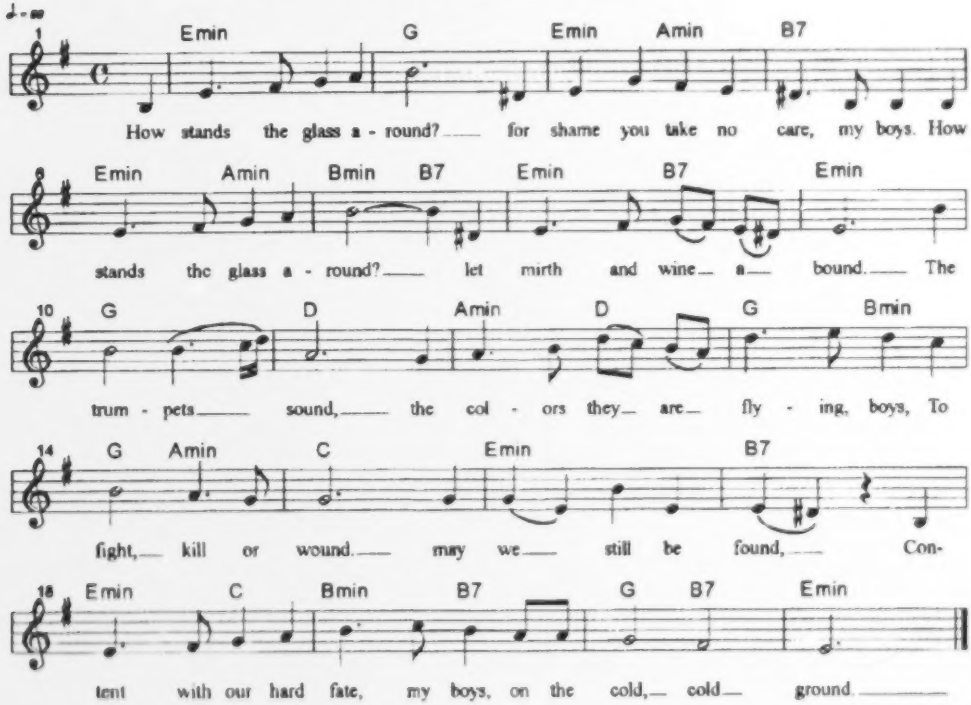
The New York Gazette "Congress is justly chargeable before God and the world, with all the calamities which America now suffers, and with all those other and greater calamities which it will probably suffer hereafter in the course of this unnatural contest."

Patriot 93 - Stalemate, 1779. Soldiers fought and were not paid, starved, or even stayed in bed to cover their nakedness, while unscrupulous business men grew fat on the profits of war. To add to the hardships, inflation set in; the Continental currency was nearly worthless.

Patriot 94 - Stalemate. The winter of 1779 -1780 was amongst the coldest in living memory. Washington and his ragged troops lay in snowbound encampments in New Jersey and the New York highlands. There were many cases of frostbite; some men froze to death at their posts or in the snow. Drifting snow made the roads impassable, and all supplies were cut off from Washington's armies.

John Martin. "We were absolutely starved. I do solemnly declare that I did not put a single morsel of victuals into my mouth for four days and as many nights, except a little bit of birch bark I gnawed off a stick of wood."

Patriot 95 - Many of the American soldiers were weary of the war. They sang a well-loved British soldier's song talking of the desolation of war. *How Stands the Glass Around?* is a lament describing the desolation of a soldier's life.

How Stands the Glass Around

Emin G Emin Amin B7
How stands the glass a - round? for shame you take no care, my boys. How
Emin Amin Bmin B7 Emin B7 Emin
stands the glass a - round? let mirth and wine a bound. The
10 G D Amin D G Bmin
trum - pets sound, the col - ors they are fly - ing, boys, To
14 G Amin C Emin B7
fight, kill or wound. may we still be found, Con-
18 Emin C Bmin B7 G B7 Emin
tent with our hard fate, my boys, on the cold, cold ground.

How stands the glass around? For shame you take no care, my boys.
How stands the glass around? Let mirth and wine abound.
The trumpets sound, the colors they are flying, boys,
To fight, kill or wound. May we still be found,
Content with our hard fate, my boys, on the cold, cold ground.

Why, soldiers, why, should we be melancholy, boys?
Why, soldiers, why, whose business 'tis to die?
What sighing, Fie! drown fear, drink on, and be jolly, boys,
'Tis he, you, or I; Cold, hot, wet or dry,
We're always bound to follow, boys, And scorn to fly!

'Tis but in vain, I mean not to upraid ye, boys,
'Tis but in vain, For soldiers to complain.
Should next campaign send us to him who made us, boys,
We're free from pain. And should we remain,
A bottle and kind landlady cure all again.

vocabulary
upraid: scold

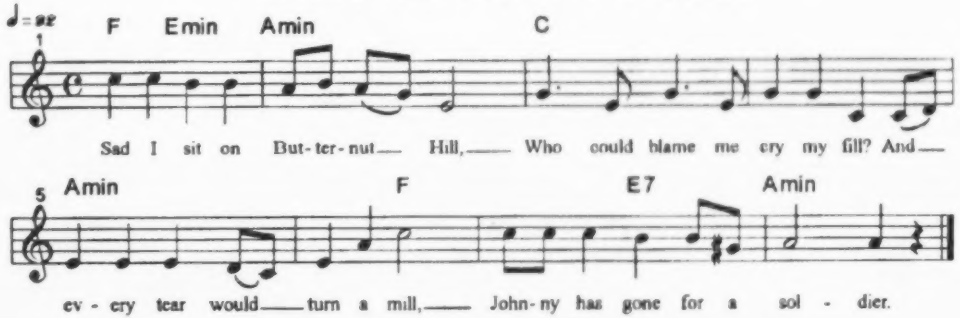
Marquis de Lafayette

When the Revolution broke out, Lafaytte, then nineteen years of age, championed the American cause. He crossed the Atlantic ocean and was welcomed as a member of Washington's command. "... the welfare of America is closely bound up with the welfare of mankind." he wrote home to his wife.

Lafayette became the living symbol of the Franco-American alliance. He fought with Washington at Monmouth and commanded French troops at Yorktown. Washington thought of Lafayette as the son he never had.

Patriot 96 - The winter cold increased the danger of British raids on coastal settlements. In January 1780, 400 men crossed on the ice from Staten Island to Trembly's Point, and raided Elizabethtown, New Jersey. Another party crossed the ice on sleighs and attacked Newark. Buildings were looted and burned. Some of the inhabitants, carried off as prisoners, suffered severely from the intense cold.

Patriot 97 - Winter added to the hardships of women in particular. When men were away, even for short periods of time, their burdens were doubled. They had fields to plough, harvests to gather, wood to cut and haul, in addition to taking care of children and the home. In the loneliness of war, too, hearts ached as well as limbs.

Johnny Has Gone For a Soldier

Sad I sit on Butternut Hill,
Who could blame me cry my fill?
And every tear would turn a mill,
Johnny has gone for a soldier.

Me oh my I loved him so,
Broke my heart to see him go.
And only time can heal my woe,
Johnny has gone for a soldier.

I'll sell my clock, I'll sell my reel,
Likewise I'll sell my spinning wheel,
To buy my love a sword of steel,
Johnny has gone for a soldier.

Sad I sit on Butternut Hill,
Who can blame me cry my fill?
And every tear would turn a mill,
Johnny has gone for a soldier.

Patriot 98 - The American will to resist was not broken and the alliance with France did not die. The embodiment of both, during these dark days, was John Paul Jones and his ship, the *Bonhomme Richard*, a gift from the French.

Patriot 99 - The Americans' biggest weakness was that they had no navy. But they made up for this, to some extent, by giving papers to ship owners or captains authorizing them to wage their own war on enemy shipping, and to make money out of the vessels, or 'prizes,' that they captured

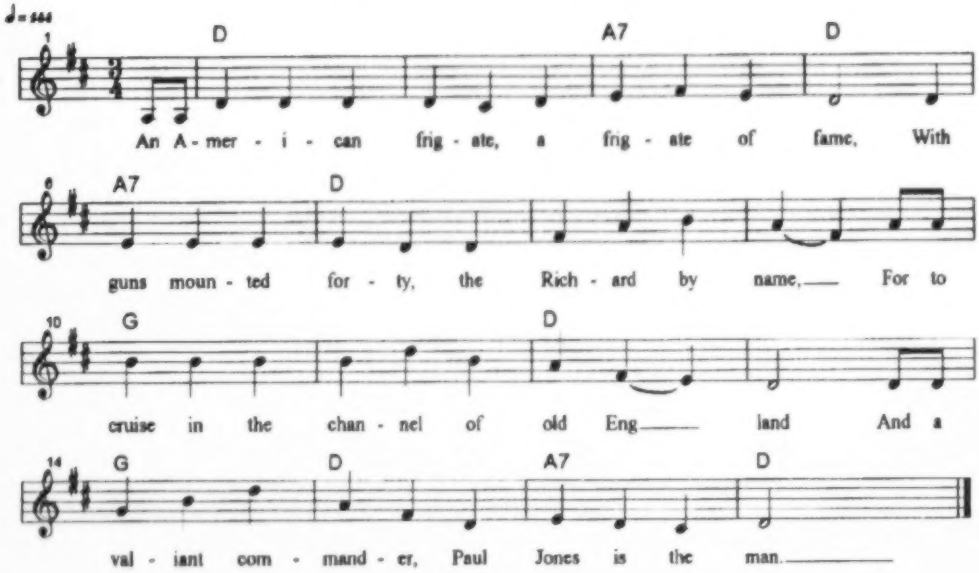
Loyalist 100 - After the conclusion of the treaty with France, these privateers, as they were called, found bases from which to operate in French ports on the English Channel. They swiftly became a menace to British commerce.

Patriot 101 - John Paul Jones, the son of Scottish parents, was the prince of American privateers. In September 1779, he was cruising with his small squadron in the North Sea. There he encountered the *Serapis* , carrying 50 guns, and the *Countess of Scarborough*, with 25 guns. These ships were British men o' war under the command of Captains Pearson and Piercy. They were escorting a British merchant fleet homeward from the Baltic Sea.

Patriot 102 - On September 23, a moonlight duel between the *Bonhomme Richard* and the *Serapis* took place off Flamborough Head, a high promontory on the Yorkshire coast in the North Sea between Filey and Bridlington Bays. After a fierce battle Captain Pearson surrendered and his ship sank. Paul Jones, thanks to his indomitable will, was the victor, despite the fact that his ship was shattered by the first broadside from the *Serapis*, and sank two days later.

Loyalist 103 - English people watched the engagement from Flamborough Head's rocky cliffs; it was they who wrote this famous sea ballad which soon became very popular in North America.

Phyllis Wheatley
Our first African-American poet was brought to Boston as a slave child in 1761. She was given a private education and became a talented writer. She corresponded with George Washington and wrote lines in his honor.

Paul Jones' Victory

D
A7
D
An A - mer - i - can frig - ate, a frig - ate of fame, With
A7
D
guns moun - ted for - ty, the Rich - ard by name, For to
G
D
cruise in the chan - nel of old Eng land And a
G
D
A7
D
val - iant com - mand - er, Paul Jones is the man.

An American frigate, a frigate of fame,
With guns mounted forty, the *Richard* by name,
For to cruise in the channel of old England
And a valiant commander, Paul Jones is the man.

We had not sailed long before we did spy
A large forty-four and a twenty so nigh,
With fifty bold seamen well laid in with store
In consort pursued us from old England's shore.

About twelve at noon Percy came along side
With a loud speaking trumpet,
"Whence came you?" he cried,
"It's now give an answer, I hailed you before,
Or this moment a broadside into you I will pour."

Paul Jones then he says to his men everyone,
"Let every bold seaman stand true to his gun.
We'll receive a broadside from these bold Englishmen,
And like true Yankee heroes return it again."

The contest was bloody, both decks ran with gore,
The sea seemed to blaze when the cannon did roar.
"Fight on my brave boys," then Paul Jones he cried,
"We soon will humble this bold Englishman's pride."

We fought them eight glasses, eight glasses so hot,
Til seventy bold seamen lay dead on the spot,
And ninety bold seamen lay bleeding in gore,
While the pieces of cannon most wretched did roar.

Our gunner in a fright to Paul Jones he came.
"We make water quite fast, and our side's in a flame."
Then brave Jones he said in the height of his pride,
"If we can't do no better boys, sink alongside."

The *Alliance* bore down while the *Richard* did rake,
Which caused the heart of poor Percy to ache.
Our shot flew so hot they could not stand us long,
And the flag of proud Britain was forced to come down.

So now, my brave boys, you have taken a prize,
A large forty-four and a twenty likewise.
Both noble vessels well laden with store,
We'll bend on all canvas for New England once more.

God bless the widows who shortly must weep,
For the loss of their husbands now sunk in the deep.
Here's a health to Paul Jones, a sword in his hand,
Who led us to battle and gave the command.

vocabulary
a large forty-four and a twenty: two ships, one with 44 cannon , the second with 20.
the Alliance: one of Paul Jones' frigates that actually played no part in the engagement.
in consort: working together.
rake: a broadside with cannon.
we fought them eight glasses: A naval hour glass, filled with sand, ran out in 1/2 hour. Thus 'eight glasses' meant four hours.

Phase 4: The Southern Campaign:
From the Attack on Charleston, South Carolina, February 1780,
to Cornwallis' Capitulation at Yorktown, Virginia, October 1781.

Cornwallis and the Campaign of 1780

Loyalist 104 - 1780 opened with an all-out British effort to end the stalemate and win the war. In April, Sir Henry Clinton returned to South Carolina, to win a base from which to launch an invasion of the South. Sir Henry laid siege to Charleston, and took it on May 2, after a combined assault by land and sea. He then returned to New York, leaving Lord Charles Cornwallis to complete the conquest of the South.

Loyalist 105 - In order to accomplish Clinton's orders, Cornwallis had to seek out and destroy the Continental forces and the local militia. The result in the South was the same as it had been elsewhere. Patriot bands sprang up to cut supply lines and harass British detachments. Backwoods people rallied around leaders like Francis Marion, Thomas Sumter and Andrew Pickens. Battles of unexampled bitterness were fought against the invaders and their loyalist allies.

Loyalist 106 - Cornwallis inflicted a crushing defeat against the Americans at Camden, South Carolina, on August 16, 1780. But as Cornwallis soon found, win or lose in the vast Southern land, it didn't seem to make much difference.

Loyalist 107 - When Cornwallis won a battle, his enemy melted away, leaving the British in possession of an empty battlefield. Then the patriots resumed their attacks on supply lines, forcing the British to retreat to the security of fortified posts or coastal bases. The Americans then returned to the territory the British were obliged to abandon.

Patriot 108 - To make matters worse for the British,Washington appointed General Nathaniel Greene as commander in the South. Greene, a Rhode Islander, was one of Washington's best generals. He had commanded troops at the siege of Boston and the battle of Trenton. He took up his Southern command at the end of 1780. and launched the campaign of 1781 that resulted in the collapse of Clinton's southern strategy in a little less than one year.

Clinton, Cornwallis and Arnold

.Loyalist 109 - In August 1780, Washington appointed Benedict Arnold, commandant of West Point. Arnold now made secret preparations to turn the fortress over to the British.

Loyalist 110 - West Point is situated in the New York highlands at a place where the Hudson River passes through a narrow channel between steep banks and mountain ridges. By 1780 both sides believed that whoever held this bastion also held the keys to American's future. British control of the Fort would enable them to navigate the Hudson River as far as Albany, and seal off New England from the central states. Sir Henry Clinton felt that if he could seize West Point this would be, along with his Southern strategy, the beginning of the end for the American cause.

Patriot 111 - Benedict Arnold of Connecticut was a brave field officer who had repeatedly shown his readiness to give his life for the revolution. In 1775 he had shared with Ethan Allen the honor of capturing Fort Ticonderoga; and he had organized and led the force that invaded Canada across the wilds of Maine. On January 1, 1776, he, along with Richard Montgomery, led an assault on Quebec, in a freezing blizzard. In 1777, he performed with conspicuous valor in the Hudson Valley campaign and in a naval action on Lake Champlain. His native Connecticut also had reason to be grateful to him for driving British raiders from Norwalk and Danbury.

Loyalist 112 - In 1778, Arnold became commandant of Philadelphia when the British left. There he met and married Peggy Shippen, a pretty Loyalist teenager. He fell into debt and was reprimanded by Washington. Arnold became jealous when Congress promoted other military

Baroness Fredrika von Riedsel was the wife of one of George III's German Commanders. In 1776 she crossed the Atlantic with her three young daughters to join he husband on Burgoyne's Hudson Valley Campagn. She recorded her experiences in a journal. (see Bibliography).

officers over his head. At the same time Loyalist Peggy urged him to abandon the American cause.

Loyalist 113 - In September, 1780, Major John Andre, adjutant and friend to Sir Henry Clinton undertakes a dangerous mission for his commander. Entering enemy territory, he meets with Arnold by night on the west bank of the Hudson River north of Haverstraw, New York. Arnold and Andre negotiate the price that Clinton will pay for a map of the West Point's defenses.

Loyalist 114 - John Andre was a talented and ambitious young soldier who had come to America with General Howe in 1775. Andre met Peggy Shippen during the winter of 1777-1778 in Philadelphia where they became fast friends. Peggy and Andre became go-betweens in the secret negotiations between Clinton and Arnold.

Loyalist 115 - His Majesty's ship, *Vulture* had brought Andre up the river for the negotiations with Arnold. But during the night the *Vulture* came under fire from American batteries on shore, and was forced to dropped back downstream. When dawn came, Andre found himself stranded.

Loyalist 116 - Arnold put Andre across the river in civilian clothes and left him to make his way back to New York City on his own, with the West Point map hidden in his shoe. On the morning of September 24 three American militiamen, John Paulding, Isaac van Wert, and David Williams, stopped him at Tarrytown, searched him, and found the map.

Patriot 117 - News of this discovery was immediately sent to Arnold at West Point, where he was about to escort George Washington and his aide, a young man named Alexander Hamilton, on a tour of inspection of West Point. Arnold said good-bye to Peggy, galloped down to the river, and had himself rowed downstream to the *Vulture*. Soon he was safely in New York.

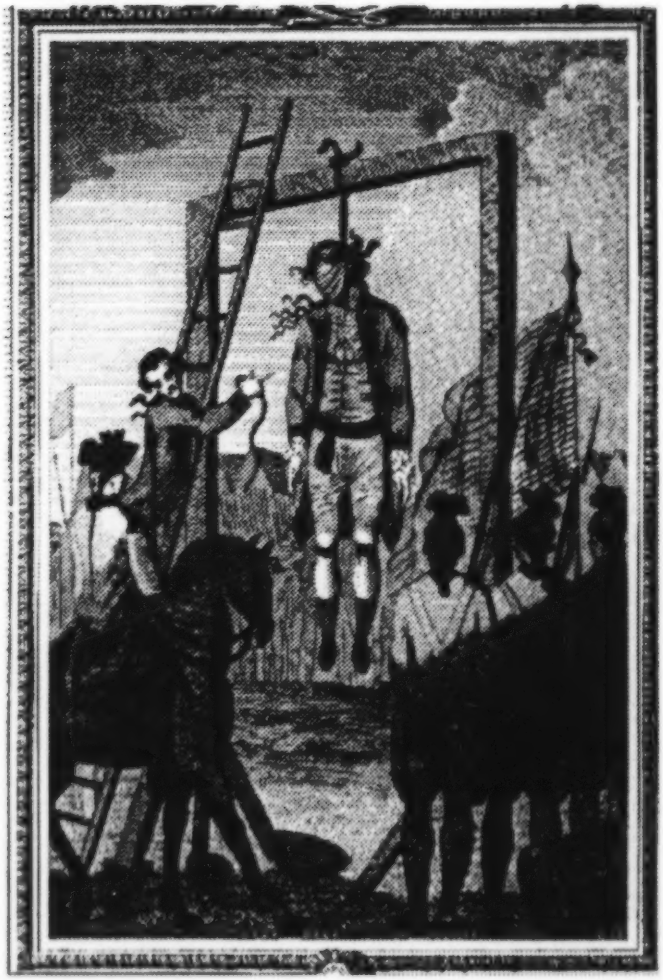
Patriot 118 - John Andre was taken to American headquarters at Tappan, New Jersey, tried, and sentenced to die as a spy. On October 2, 1780, the army and a crowd of civilians assembled on Tappan Hill to witness the execution. A soldier described the scene:

American soldier. "A procession was formed.... In front were a large number of American officers of high rank, on horseback. They were followed by the wagon with coffin, then a large number of officers on foot, with Andre in their midst. The procession moved slowly up the hill... to an open field in which was a very high gallows..."

Loyalist 119 - At the place of execution Andre waited while the cart, with its black coffin, was drawn under the gallows. He put his foot on a stone, rolled it, and fought a choking sensation in his throat.

American soldier. "He was dressed... in a complete British uniform; coat of the brightest scarlet, faced or trimmed with the most beautiful green. His vest and britches were of bright buff,... He had a long and beautiful head of hair, which, agreeably to the fashion, was wound with a black ribbon and hung down his back."

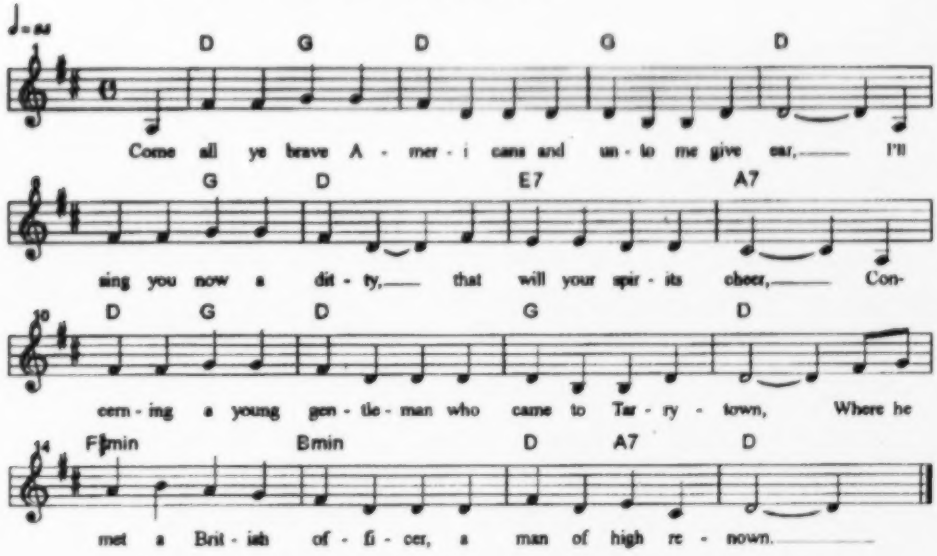
Patriot 120 - The audience watched in silence; many were in tears. Here an innocent man was about to die for another's crime. The wagon pulled away; the body swung, and was still.



American soldier. "He remained hanging twenty or thirty minutes, and during that time the chambers of death were never stiller than the multitude by which he was surrounded. Orders were given to cut the rope and take him down, without letting him fall, this was done, and his body laid carefully on the ground."

Loyalist 121 - The body of John Andre was laid to rest on Tappan Hill. Years later the remains were taken back to Westminster Abbey in London. A marker at Tappan Hill reads:

Marker. "His death though according to the stern code of war moved even his enemies to pity; and both armies mourned the fate of one so young and brave."

The Ballad of Major Andre

D G D G D
Come all ye brave A - mer - i cans and un - to me give ear, I'll
G D E7 A7
sing you now a dit - ty, that will your spir - its cheer, Con-
D G D G D
cern - ing a young gen - tle - man who came to Tar - ry - town, Where he
F♯min Bmin D A7 D
met a Brit - ish of - fi - cer, a man of high re - nown.

Come all ye brave Americans, and unto me give ear,
I'll sing you now a ditty, that will your spirits cheer,
Concerning a young gentleman who came to Tarrytown,
Where he met a British officer, a man of high renown.

Then up spoke this young hero, John Paulding was his name.
"Oh tell us where you're going, sir, and also whence you came?"
"I bear the British flag, sir," up answered bold Andre,
"I have a pass that takes me through, I have no time to stay."

Then others came around him, and bade him to dismount.
"Come tell us where you're going, give us a strict account."
Young Paulding said, "We are resolved that you shall ne'er pass by;"
And so the evidence did prove the prisoner a spy.

He begged for his liberty, he pled for his discharge,
And often times he told them, if they'd set him at large,
"Here's all the gold and silver I have laid up in store,
And when I reach the city I will send you ten times more."

"We scorn the gold and silver you have laid up in store,"
Van Wert and Paulding both did cry, "You need not send us more."
He saw that his conspiracy would soon be brought to light,
He begged for pen and paper and he asked for to write.

The story came to Arnold, commanding at the Fort.
He called for the *Vulture* and sailed for New York.
Now Arnold to New York has gone, a-fighting for his King,
And left poor Major Andre on the gallows for to swing.

Andre was executed, he looked both meek and mild,
His face was fair and handsome, and pleasantly he smiled.
It moved each eye to pity, and every heart there bled,
And everyone wished him released, and Arnold in his stead.

He was a man of honor, in Britain he was born,
To die upon the gallows most highly he did scorn:
And now his life has reached its end, so young and blooming still,
In Tappan's quiet countryside he sleeps upon the hill.

The Virginia Campaign, 1781

Loyalist 122 - In October 1779, Sir Henry Clinton evacuated his troops from Newport, Rhode Island. They sailed to New York City to provide a defense there while his main forces were engaged for a Southern campaign.

Patriot 123 - May 1780, four regiments of French soldiers arrived at Newport under the command of the Marquis de Rochambeau. Their lovely uniforms caused a sensation; they wore gorgeous caps decorated with rosettes and snowy plumes.

Loyalist 124 - Early in 1781, Lord Cornwallis, facing stalemate in South Carolina, decided Virginia offered opportunity for success. Virginia was a wealthy state that could provide food and forage, and he could work there with other British generals, including Benedict Arnold. To Virginia, accordingly, Cornwallis went by a long overland march in April 1781.

Loyalist 125 - Sir Henry Clinton was not happy to see Cornwallis desert the campaign to conquer Georgia and the Carolinas. But he directed Cornwallis to occupy Yorktown, Virginia, on the York River. By August of 1781 Cornwallis had achieved this objective.

Patriot 126 - In May 1781 George Washington and General Rochambeau began to discuss their plans for the summer campaign. Washington believed that the best thing to do was to storm the enemy's main base, New York City. In June the French troops left Newport on their way to join Washington and his Continentals at White Plains.

Patriot 127 - The French marched westward from Providence amid the gray stone walls and flowering profusion of New England spring. Rochambeau's aide, a young German officer, Baron Louis von Closen, went ahead of the troops and got his first glimpse of the American Army on July 4, 1781.

Baron Louis von Closen. "It was really painful to see these brave men almost naked, with only some trousers and little linen jackets; most of them without stockings, but, believe it or not, very cheerful and healthy in appearance. A quarter of them were Negroes, merry, confident, and sturdy."

Patriot 128 - Late in July, Washington and Rochambeau probe the defenses of Manhattan, but attack is unthinkable. On August 14, heartening news arrives from Newport. Admiral de Grasse, commander of the main French fleet in the West Indies, is ready for operations against the British in American waters. He is already on his way to Chesapeake Bay with a large force. Almost immediately news arrives from the Marquis de Lafayette *(see page 45)* in Virginia: Cornwallis's army has settled in at Yorktown.

Patriot 129 - Rapidly Washington and Rochambeau's forces march south. If all goes well, the British will be caught in a vice between the French fleet at sea and Washington's army on land.

Patriot 130 - September 5, 1781. The French and American troops arrive at Philadelphia. General Rochambeau and his party take a sight-seeing trip down the Delaware River. Coming to shore Baron von Closen sees Washington.

Baron Louis von Closen. "...General Washington, [was] standing on shore and waving his hat and a white handkerchief joyfully... He told us as we disembarked that M. de Grasse had arrived in Chesapeake Bay with 28 ships of the line and 3,000 troops... The entire army shared our generals' joy in having their calculations work out so well."

Loyalist 131 - September 5. A British fleet under the command of Admiral Graves is patrolling Chesapeake Bay. Unexpectedly he runs into De Grasse. The decisive battle of the war has begun; the outcome will be determined by the forces engaged at sea. A British officer, Captain Mackenzie writes:

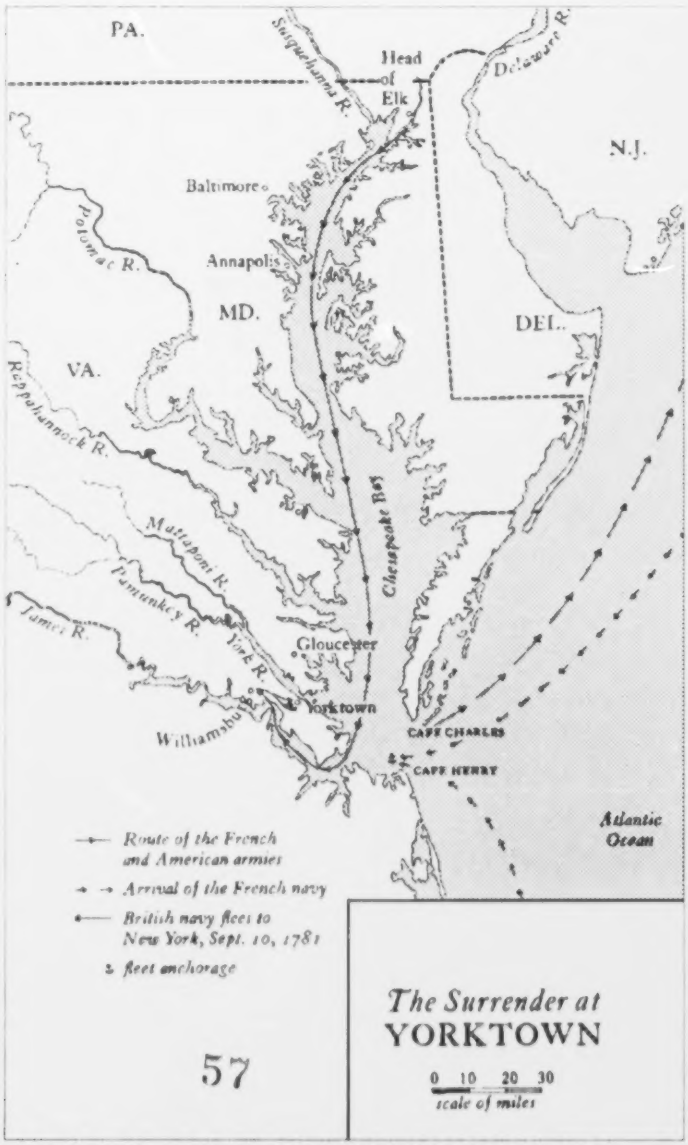
Captain Mackenzie. "Should the French gain such an advantage over our fleet as to enable them to continue their operations unmolested against Lord Cornwallis, our hopes in that quarter rest entirely on the firmness of him and his troops; on the contrary should our fleet beat theirs, we have a fair prospect of ending the rebellion...."

Loyalist 132 - The engagement begins on September 5, and lasts until the ninth. The British suffer damage both from gunfire and a wind storm. It is the British Navy not the French, that retires from battle. Admiral Graves limps back to New York. A frantic race to refit and repair the ships begins, so that the Cornwallis may be reinvorce. In the meantime, mastery of the sea off the Virginia coast is with de Grasse.

Patriot 133 - September 28. Washington reaches Yorktown and links forces with the French troops; cannon is moved into place and the siege begins. Private Joseph Martin, who witnessed the beginning of the war is there to see it end.

Joseph Martin. "I confess I felt a secret pride swell my heart when I saw the star-spangled banner waving majestically in the very faces of our adversaries... The siege was carried on warmly for several days, when most of the guns in the enemy's works were silenced."

Patriot 134 - Cornwallis has waited in vain for help from New York. It never arrives. On October 17, he surrenders. His batteries have been demolished by enemy cannon fire, food is almost gone, and sickness is raging through his ranks. An American broadside ballad, set to the tune of *The British Grenadiers*, records the end of the War.



Lord Cornwallis' Surrender *(tune: British Grenediers)*

Come all you brave Americans, The truth to you I'll tell,
'Tis of a sad misfortune, to Britain late befell.
'Twas all in the heights of Yorktown, where cannon loud did roar,
They summoned Lord Cornwallis, to fight or else give o'er.

The summons then to be served, was sent unto my Lord,
Which made him feel like poor Burgoyne, and quickly draw his sword.
"Say, must I give these glittering troops, these ships and Hessians too,
And yield to General Washington, and his bold rebel crew?"

A grand council was called, his Lordship gave command,
"Say, what think you now my heroes, to yield you may depend:
For don't you see the bomb shells fly, and cannon loud do roar,
Count de Grasse lies in the harbor, and Washington's on shore."

'Twas the nineteenth of October, in the year eighty-one,
Lord Cornwallis he surrencered, to General Washington:
They marched from their posts brave boys, and quickly grounded arms,
Rejoice, ye brave Americans, with music's sweetest charms.

Six thousand chosen British troops, to Washington resigned,
Besides some ships and Hessians, that could not stay behind;
With refugees and blackamores; oh what a direful crew!
It was then he had some thousands, but now he's got but few.

My Lord has gone unto New York, Sir Harry for to see;
For to send home this dreadful news unto his Majesty;
To contradict some former lines, that once to him was sent,
That he and his bold British troops, they conquered where they went.

Here's a health to great Washington, and his brave army too,
And likewise to our worthy Greene, to him much honor's due:
May we subdue those English troops, and clear the eastern shore,
That we may live in peace my boys, whilst wars they are no more.

Vocabulary: Sir Harry: Sir Henry Clinton
blackamores: derogatory term for African-American
the eastern shore: the eastern shore of Chesapeake Bay; or, more generally, the Chesapeake Bay region of Maryland and Virginia.

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Page numbers refer to where maps and pictures from the source were placed in volume XV. All the pictures reproduced here are from the Revolutionary War period.

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SONG NOTES

The Liberty Song, (page 6) was written by John Dickinson, a Pennsylvania lawyer, who bitterly opposed Britain's assertion of a right to tax the American colonies. Published in the *Boston Gazette* of July 18, 1768, this song was picked up by other newspapers and became popular with the patriots. It was set to the tune of a popular English song, The *Heart of Oak*, which had been written in London in 1759 as a salute to the British Navy and its men. Source: *Songs of Independence.*

Revolutionary Tea, or, ***The Rich Old Lady Over the Sea.*** (page 8) This ballad appeals to young people, and children immediately understand the dialogue between mother and daughter. The message is the same today as it was then. When you grow up, as a person or as a people, you become independent. Your mother can no longer tell you what you ought to do. Source: *The Ballad of America.*

The Irishman's Epistle, (page 10) became popular as a broadside. Irish immigrants were arriving in Boston even before the Revolution. The song is set to the jig tune *The Irish Washerwoman.* Source: *Songs and Ballads of the American Revolution,*

To The Commons. (page 12)Frank Moore tells us that this song was written in England, and first published in the *Middlesex Journal.* The anonymous author reissued it as a broadside in 1777, with the following observation: "My efforts were

so well received last year," he wrote, "I have the temerity to republish it in a more portable form, and try the royal brutes again. Heaven help us, if they will not take good advice, or stop for reflection, for they are speedily leading us to the devil." Two verses are omitted in the script. The expressive melody is taken from *Blow Ye Winds of Morning*, an old sea chanty. Source: *Songs and Ballads of the American Revolution*.

Fish and Tea. (page 14) This song attacks the Coercive Acts of 1774, and the Newfoundland Fisheries Act of March 1775 which closed the fisheries to New England seamen. The melody is an old stock tune, *Chevy Chase*. We have omitted one of the original verses. Source: *Diary of the American Revolution*.

The British Grenadiers, (page 16) is the most famous British Army marching song. The following is taken from notes contributed by our friend Bob England, a talented folklorist and military historian of the Arkansas State University.

"The word grenade is derived from the Italian *granato*, pomegranate. Grenades were spherical bombs about the same size as a pomegranate, and weighed about two pounds. They were made of glass or iron: the hollow center was filled with five or six ounces of gunpowder and bits of metal or glass. The grenade was detonated by lighting a short fuse just before it was thrown. These grenades were the ancestor of the modern hand grenade.

"Use of grenades in battle required specially trained soldiers called grenadiers. In an attack on a fortified position the grenadiers would march up the slope (or glacis) to the palisade of wooden stakes which surrounded the fortified position. While other soldiers covered them with their flintlocks, the grenadiers would throw their grenades over the palisade, killing any enemy lurking there and hopefully opening a gap in the wall of the fortification itself.

"The grenadiers wore helmets, called miter caps, made of wicker or felt, wool or bearskin. In addition to their special cap and other equipment, the coats that they wore were decorated with loops of lace around the buttonholes.

"By the beginning of the 18th century the grenade was no longer an important weapon: artillery could now batter down fortified positions more swiftly than the long lines of grenadiers armed with 'pomegranates.' Nonetheless, the grenadiers continued to do duty as shock troops, and were used to carry out the most dangerous assignments.

"Grenadier companies were made up of the tallest, strongest men in the regiment. They still wore bearskin helmets, but they no longer carried grenades, and were expected to use bayonets in the assault. Lace loops with colorful designs continued to decorate their uniforms; they also designated the unit to which the men belonged."

From Bunker Hill to Yorktown grenadiers marched through America and fought the rebels. They were probably the best regular troops that England ever fielded in the colonies. Their song accompanied those stout-hearted men as they passed through history. It lives on as their epitaph. Source: Folksong In The Classroom Vol. III, #1.

Yankee Doodle, (page 18) dates from the battle of Bunker Hill in July 1775, and Washington's arrival at his headquarters in Cambridge, Massachusetts, the following month. A song of the same name, making fun of colonial militiamen, had been popular with British troops since the French and Indian Wars; but in 1775 the Americans claimed this ballad as their own. Source: *The Diary of the American Revolution*.

The Deserter, (page 20) is a fine mid-18th century broadside ballad that illustrates the brutality with which the common soldier was treated. The melody is transcribed by John A. Scott from the singing of Ewan McColl, the Scottish folksinger. Source: *Diary of the American Revolution*.

Sir Peter Parker. (page 22) Fort Sullivan was a decayed defense work hastily rebuilt by

Charleston's defenders in anticipation of the attack that materialized in June 1776. Colonel Moultrie, commander of the Sullivan's Island garrison, set up double walls of palmetto logs six feet apart and filled with earth. He made provision for bastions, or fortified platforms extending out from the fort, where cannon were emplaced. General Charles Lee, who had been sent down from Philadelphia to assume overall command of the troops in the Charleston area, was not impressed with Moultrie's hastily built fortification; and a sea captain predicted that when the British fleet arrived "it will knock down your fort in half an hour."

Sir Peter Parker began his attack on June 28 1776, and the cannonade continued all day. But only ten of Moultrie's men were killed, and only a handful wounded. As for the fort, its log walls absorbed cannonballs like a 'sponge absorbs drops of water.' The British ships, on the other hand, suffered terribly from the punishment which the guns in Moultrie's bastions handed out. A hundred British seamen died and many were wounded.

Sir Henry Clinton took no part in the engagement. The water in the inlet separating Long Island and Sullivan's Island was so deep that his men could not wade across. All that Clinton could do, as the song says, was to 'peep' at the battle from a distance. The British attempted no further assault on Charleston, S.C. until nearly five years later, when early in 1780 Sir Henry Clinton ran before the guns of Fort Moultrie in a high wind.

Sir Peter Parker immortalizes the 1776 episode. It burlesques Clinton and Parker's comic-opera exploits with devastating wit; and also provides a remarkably accurate summary of the principal events of the ill-fated expedition. As for the South Carolinians, they renamed their fort Fort Moultrie, in honor of its defender; so it is called to this day. *Sir Peter Parker*, was written and printed in London, and set to the tune *Well Met, Brother Tar*. It soon became popular in the American colonies. Source: *Songs and Ballads of the American Revolution*.

The Dying Redcoat (page 26) is a classic broadside ballad of the Revolutionary War, and is almost certainly based upon an actual incident It has survived both in broadside form and in oral tradition. Frank Warner, noted song collector, learned the melody from the singing of Yankee John Galusha of Minerva, N.Y., a woodsman who died in 1950. Source: *Traditional American Folk Songs from the Anne and Frank Warner Collection*

The Ballad of Nathan Hale. (page 28) Nathan Hale, the son of Richard H. Hale of Coventry, Connecticut, and a descendant of John Hale, first minister of Beverly, Massachusetts, graduated with high honors at Yale College in 1773. Little else is known about his life. With respect to the circumstances of his arrest, Frank Moore states the following:

"Washington, after the retreat of his army from Long Island, in 1776, wishing to obtain information relative to the true situation and intended operations of the royal troops, applied to one of his officers for 'a discreet and enterprising person to penetrate the enemy's camp.' This request was communicated to Nathan Hale, a captain in Colonel Knowlton's regiment. Hale undertook the dangerous service and passed through the British lines in disguise. He obtained the desired information; but on his return was apprehended and carried before Sir William Howe, to whom he frankly acknowledged the object of his visit. Howe immediately gave an order to the provost marshal, and Hale was executed in the early part of the next day."

Nothing is known about the writer of this ballad, the date when it was composed, or the origins of the melody to which it was set. We have omitted several verses. The melody used here was provided by Bill Bonyun, Westport Island, Maine. Source: *Songs and Ballads of the American Revolution*.

The Battle of Trenton. (page 30) Historians have marked the Battle of Trenton, December 25 1776,

as one of the major turning points in the revolutionary struggle. It was rightly celebrated in song. The simple lyric given here (author unknown) summarizes the story of the historic event, and invites Americans to remember this victory and celebrate it. The somber melody is a variant of *The Three Ravens*, an English ballad dating back to medieval times. Source: *The Diary of the American Revolution*.

Riflemen of Bennington. (page 32) This song is not found in the major broadside collections, nor in the newspapers of the revolutionary era. Moore did not publish it The lyrics were included in a songster, *The Soldier's Companion*, that appeared in 1856. John and Lucy Allison sang the version provided here on a 78 r.p.m. record in their album, *The Songs of the American Revolution*, which they produced in the late 1930's or early 1940's. John Allison is credited for writing the music by Irwin Silber. Source: *Songs of Independence*.

The Fate of John Burgoyne. (page 34) The verses, probably composed at the end of 1777, are set to the tune of, *The Girl I Left Behind Me*, an English marching song that first appeared during the period known as the Seven Years War, between England and France, 1746-63. Melody source: *Old English Popular Music*. Source for American lyrics: *Songs and Ballads of the American Revolution*.

Come Out, You Continentalers. (page 38) This song was probably composed in Philadelphia in 1778. It mocked von Steuben's efforts to make professional soldiers out of country bumpkins. *The* melody is a modern variant of an old tune, *The Rose Tree*. Source: *Diary of the American Revolution*.

Yankee Doodle's Expedition to Rhode Island. This witty song was received with glee by Tories on both sides of the Atlantic. Source: *Songs and Ballads of the American Revolution*.

How Stands the Glass Around, (page 44) or, *The Duke of Berwick's March*. This famous lament dates back to the 17th century, and is said to have been a favorite of General James Wolfe. Its reissue after the end of the Revolutionary War as a broadside *(Isaiah Thomas Collection)* testifies to its continuing popularity in the early years of the new Republic. The song, as far as we know, has not survived in oral tradition.

The verses themselves paint the setting in which the song was likely sung. The men are seated in an alehouse in a somber mood. One chides his comrads. "How stands glass around?" He is saying, in effect, ' Is your glass empty? Come lads, fill them up! Let's drink and be merry! Why worry? If we die, why, there's an end to our pain. But if we live, a bottle and kind landlady will cure all again.' Source: *Old English Popular Music*.

The Battle of the Kegs. (page 36) Francis Hopkinson, author of the lyrics, was a talented revolutionary propagandist, poet and pamphleteer. "The song is one of the best satirical ballads of the war. Sources: *Songs and Ballads of the American Revolution*.

Johnny Has Gone for a Soldier (page 46) or *Shule Aroon*, or *The Song of the Wild Geese*. 18th century Irish immigrants brought this lament with them in its original Gaelic form. In time the Irish lyrics turned into English ones, and the lovely Gaelic refrain dropped away. The version we reproduce here was sung by settlers in the Hudson Valley. It has been transmitted to us through the family tradition of the New York song collector John Alison. Source: For the original Irish melody and lyrics, with commentary, see, *Folk Song in the Classroom*, Vol. XII #1 (Fall 1991): *Fowls of the Air: Wild and Domesticated*.

Paul Jones' Victory. (page 48) This famous ballad about Paul Jones was widely sung during and after the Revolution and was preserved both in printed form as a broadside, and also in the oral tradition. The lyric and melody reproduced here were learned by Frank and Anne Warner from the singing of C.K. Tillett of the North Carolina Outer

Banks. Source: *Traditional American Folk Songs from the Anne and Frank Warner Collection*. Reproduced by permission. For the reproduction of an original broadside, see *Diary of the American Revolution*.

The Ballad of Major Andre. (page 54) This Hudson Valley ballad is one of many songs that tell the story of Arnold's treason. Moore copied it from a ballad sheet printed in 1783, and reproduced it in *Songs and Ballads of the American Revolution*. Another variant of the melody is given in. *The Diary of the American Revolution*. A fine reproduction of the lyric and melody on a single 8 1/2 x 11" sheet is provided in John A. Scott, *History of the American People* (New York, 1990).

Lord Cornwallis's Surrender is one of the outstanding broadside ballads that emerged from the Revolution. The British humiliation at Yorktown is rubbed in by setting the American lyrics to the tune of Britain's proudest marching song, *The British Grenadiers*. Source: *The Trumpet of a Prophecy*. See *Diary of the American Revolution*, 545, for a reproduction of an original broadside.

Questions for Discussion

Why were the Americans victorious?

At first sight it seems strange that the American people were victorious in their struggle with the British: the balance of military power was so obviously against them. Britain possessed a professional army formidable both in numbers and in discipline; well armed, well clothed and (for the most part) well supplied. The officers were well trained in the arts of war and devoted their lives to the practice of their profession.

The navy that conveyed these troops, their arms and their baggage to America, was second to none, with the possible exception of the French. It could transport troops at will to any part of the American coast, land them, and supply them indefinitely. It could subject the coastal towns and cities to any punishment by artillery bombardment that it chose to inflict. The war-making machine was sustained by a well-developed manufacturing system in Britain that wove its clothes, forged its guns, and manned the yards where the wooden ships were built.

The Americans, by contrast, had no professional army and officer corps; they had to build their military organization from scratch. Absence of necessities; ammunition, food and equipment often presented the question whether they would be able to stay in the field at all. To fight their battles the Americans had to frequently depend on raw militiamen who had only rudimentary military training, and who had good reason to flee terror-stricken at the sight of the pitiless, methodical, bayonet-toting, red-coated soldiers.

The Americans, further, possessed no navy. They could offer the British almost zero resistance at sea. Yet sea power was one of the decisive factors that determined the outcome of the Revolutionary War.

Why, then, were the Americans victorious? There was, certainly nothing 'inevitable' about their victory. At least twice the revolutionary cause came close to catastrophe. Benedict Arnold's plan

to surrender West Point, if successful, might have blocked the winning of independence for a decade or more. There was, too, a strong element of luck in de Grasse's victory over the British in the engagement between the British and French navies on September, 1781. If de Grasse had suffered severe damage through enemy action or storm, he would have sailed away to refit, just as d'Estaing did after the Rhode Island encounter in August 1778. The stalemate would have continued; the success of the revolutionary cause would have been postponed indefinitely.

Additional factors, evidently, beyond the balance of power in terms of military and naval might, need to be explored in discussions with the students.

The American Revolution was a popular struggle; the revolutionary cause enjoyed the support of large numbers of ordinary people who dedicated their lives to an ideal and were prepared to die for it. This, in itself, could not guarantee the final victory of the revolutionaries; but it did mean that in a spiritual sense the British were powerless to conquer their foes. Incredible though it may seem, barefoot and ragged Continentals, frightened militia, and children armed with stones prevailed against the world's most powerful empire.

The British learned through long, costly experience that they might seize strong points, islands, coastal towns, seaports, and that they might enjoy in these places a certain measure of security. But to venture out of these enclaves and move inland was to invite disaster. The militia sprang up to slow the British advance and to sever vital supply lines. Sooner or later a force of Continental troops would appear, to give inspiration and direction to the popular resistance. As the supply lines lengthened, the hazards for the British of being caught off base, in the most literal sense, increased. From the Battle of Lexington in 1775, to Guilford Court House in 1781, this was a simple and unalterable fact of British military experience.

Another factor that needs to be reckoned with in explaining the American victory is the sheer size of the country. The invading armies had to traverse vast distances; the continent was so huge that it could absorb with ease, and swallow up, whatever forces were sent against it. How true this is emerges from a comparison with Ireland. When the American Revolution broke out, the British had been holding down a rebellious population in that country for several centuries. This success was due, in large part, to the tiny area the British had to occupy. Even then the spirit of popular resistance caused the invaders endless trouble. This resistance, indeed, has been a major theme of Irish history, music and literature for many years.

The final blow to the British was delivered at Yorktown by the French navy, acting in concert with American and French military forces by land. Cornwallis surrendered and the British war effort collapsed because the French fleet, along with a small contingent of French troops, were in the right place at the right time. *International collaboration, then, has to be reckoned as one decisive factor in explaining American victory.* The Revolution has to be seen as an aspect of a worldwide struggle between the French and British empires: United States diplomacy succeeded in bringing into play the power of the 'Old' World to redress the balance in the 'New.'

Why did the colonials prevail against Britain when the Native American peoples had failed

conspicuously to do the same thing?

Here there is a major cultural difference that needs to be explored. By the time the American Revolution broke out, British-Americans had achieved a level of unity that contrasted strongly with the fractionalization of the Native Peoples into several hundred separate groups that spoke different languages and had developed varied cultures. The war accelerated the growth of this British-American national consciousness.

What did the Revolution win for the Americans?

It won the independence and sovereignty set forth as a primary war aim in the Declaration of Independence. Beyond that it was important, not for its immediate impact on the social structure, which was slight, but because it demolished the barriers that stood in the way of major changes in the structure of American society.

The country's first steam engine was put into operation to pump water in New York City in 1776. In the course of time many more of these engines appeared and were hooked up to the country's developing industrial system to turn its wheels. Without the Revolution the gigantic industrial transformation of the 19th century would not have taken place. Britain valued her colonies as nonindustrial and raw material-producing areas, and as markets for her own manufactured products. Britain had taken steps to limit American overseas trade and to prevent the colonies from developing manufacturing enterprises of their own. The Revolution swept away these legal barriers to economic change. It provided a key to the unfolding of productive forces that until then had been latent or suppressed.

The revolutionary war resulted in a transfer from Britain to the United States of the western territories lying between the Appalachian Mountains and the Mississippi River. After the conclusion of peace with Britain the American people moved into these lands, and began to clear and settle them. In the process the population multiplied, providing an ever growing market for the manufactured products of the East. Thus the tempo of industrial development was geared to the pace of settlement in the western lands, themselves a fruit of the war for independence.

The Declaration of Independence, which formulated the heritage of the Revolution for the American nation and the world, was rent by a deep contradiction. It promised freedom and inalienable human rights to all; but when the smoke of battle cleared this promise had as yet been realized for white males only. The Revolution, in other words, had been well begun, but it would take many years more to complete. White women and people of color remained partially or totally excluded from its benefits. This situation has continued to exist for a long time, even into our own day. That is why the Revolution lives on wherever people in this country, and, for that matter, in the world itself, do battle for their political and civil rights.

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